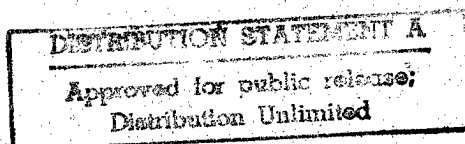


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Near East/South Asia Report

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13 June 1985

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TOLD 'ARMENIAN MASSACRE TRUE'

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 18 Apr 85 pp 1,4

[Text] Strasbourg--Belgian parliamentarian Jacques Vandemeulbruch, who has become a celebrity as a result of the contradictory reports he has prepared and the proposals he has submitted to the European Parliament, has now declared that he really is not an enemy of Turkey or Turks, that he has been misunderstood and that he does not have any particular motives for his acts.

Indeed, while he submits resolutions to the European Parliament condemning the persecution of Turks in Bulgaria, he demands protection for the rights of secessionist elements and armed movements in Turkey which rebel against the authority of the government and which resort to terrorism. This same person has prepared a report about the Armenian question without any serious research or study. When Turkish journalists ask him questions and demand explanations for his baseless allegations and unjust accusations he refuses to answer them with the pretext that everything he says is misunderstood and as a result is interpreted in different ways.

Vandemeulbruch, who by profession is a history professor, declared that he would first like to emphasize that he is not a Green--that is he is not a leftist--and that he belongs to the "rainbow" group which encompasses politicians of all views. He said: "We are seven middle-of-the-road persons in that group." He added that in Belgium he belongs to neither the Greens nor to the Volksunie party.

Responding to charges that he had prepared the "Armenian Report" without consulting anyone's opinion or knowledge, he strongly refuted such allegations and said that as a member of the "moderate" segment of the "rainbow" group he made all the necessary contacts and consulted with Professor Turkkaya Ataov. He also said that he read former Ambassador Kamran Gurun's book and studied various documents he obtained from the Turkish embassy in Brussels. He added: "In addition to all these, I had talks with Armenians living in Belgium, France and West Germany."

In response to a journalist's question on whether he had contacted any Armenians who live in Turkey, he simply said: "I never thought about that. I mean it never occurred to me. They did not contact me either to remind me. In any case there was no need for me to interview Armenians living in Turkey." Turkish journalists were justifiably astonished by this absurd answer.

Vandemeulbruch was asked: "First you say that the Armenian genocide has really occurred and then you demand that Turkey acknowledge everything on grounds that Turkey is the successor of the Ottoman Empire. Is this the conclusion you have reached with regard to resolving the issue?"

Vandemeulbruch replied: "Here, I would like you to pay attention to some delicate aspects of the issue. I support the idea that the issue be examined and discussed together with the Turks. In my report I touched upon the consequences of acknowledging the genocide. From a moral viewpoint, such a move would be very beneficial and would have positive consequences. In this regard, let me point out that we are not contemplating a situation whereby Turkey sits down with an Armenian and bargains or argues with him on this issue. The issue can be taken up in the United Nations or in some other international forum. I recommended that the European Parliament too recognize the genocide and that the case of the Armenians be included in the UN convention prepared in 1948."

Vandemeulbruch, who insists that "many problems can be resolved if Turkey acknowledges these historic events," added: "In any case, such a move would not have any significance from the perspective international law. It would only have a moral value and that is all. Otherwise, there is no question of asking the Turks to pay reparations to the Armenians because they are not obliged to do that or to hand over land to the Armenians. On the other hand, the 'Armenian history' constantly expounded by the Armenians as historical fact is also meaningless. In my report, I emphasized this point as much as I could. There can never be a question of demanding and returning land. I discussed this issue in detail in my report."

Vandemeulbruch said that, judging from the interpretation of one journalist, he is erroneously known as an enemy of Turkey and Turks. He added that he is sorry that such a serious misunderstanding has emerged and said:

"I did not tell anyone that the Armenians are liars or that the Turks are lying. I examined the issue as an historian and I reached my conclusions on the basis of the data available. I found certain falsehoods and distortions in both the Armenian and the Turkish accounts. Some documents seemed questionable to me. In my report, I discussed these and talked about my objections. I focused only on those facts that are indisputable."

In this connection, Vandemeulbruch said that the Armenians tried to pressure him and his colleagues on several occasions and some of them came personally to speak about the Armenian question. He later said that the proposal he has submitted to the European Parliament condemning the persecution of Turks in Bulgaria and his stance regarding the protection of the rights of cessionists in Turkey have no particular motives and added that the decision to be taken on this issue does not depend on him but on the arrangements of the Political Affairs Committee.

Meanwhile, the Group of Turkey's Friends in the European Parliament has been holding consultative meetings. These meetings are attended by Turkish scholars as well as a number of Turkish parliamentarians who will discuss Armenian terrorism and other related issues.

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

BRITISH LABOR MP PROPOSES TURKEY ADMIT 1915 GENOCIDE

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 19 Apr 85 p 1

[Text] The CUMHURIYET correspondent reports from Strasbourg:

The Group of Turkey's Friends in the European Parliament have held a consultative meeting with an eye to creating a favorable atmosphere for this country. The meeting was headed by German Parliamentarian (Lemer). The agenda of the meeting included the Armenian question and the report prepared by Belgian parliamentarian Jacques (Vandemeulbruch). During the meeting, Professor Turkkaya Ataov explained to the participants the Turkish views on the subject and handed to the foreigners a number of documentary and historical information.

Among other things, Ataov also discussed the report about the Armenian question prepared by (Vandemeulbruch) for the Political Affairs Committee of the European Parliament and pointed out to the participants the biased nature of the report and the fact that it is devoid of any historical facts.

The participants' attention was also drawn to the fact that the report was painstakingly kept secret from the public until, thanks to the resourcefulness of Turkish journalists, it was possible to learn its contents in their entirety. As soon as the contents of the report became known, the Turkish ambassador in Paris began a series of contacts, including a meeting with the president.

Next, (Wedeking), another member of the group, spoke and drew the attention of the participants to the following fact: "When foreign experts confirm that 1 million Armenians lived in Turkey at that time, how can it be claimed that 1.5 million Armenians were massacred?"

British Labor Party delegate Arthur Stanley (Newens), who attended the meeting although he was not invited, suggested that Turkey acknowledge the events of 1915 which are considered an "historical crime."

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EGYPT

SUPPLY MINISTER DISCUSSES PRICES, AVAILABILITY

Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 3 Apr 85 pp 12-14

[Interview with Naji Shatlah, minister of supply, by Suhayr al-Husayni: "Frank and Comprehensive Confrontation with Minister of Supply; Who Is Responsible for Price Increases; Poultry Shortages: Passing Crisis; We Produce 9 Million Loaves of Bread a Day and There Has To Be Margin of Error"]

[Text] In the first comprehensive confrontation with Dr Naji Shatlah, the minister of supply, and in answers that do not lack frankness, the minister acknowledged that the private sector still controls the bread industry and that we are now exerting efforts to develop the public sector's role so that we may be able to control bread production according to sound standards. The minister said: Subsidized flour is sold on the black market. This is an existing flaw and we will exert efforts to deal with it gradually by unifying flour prices. The minister of supply further stated: We have totally eliminated middlemen in the purchase of wheat and have thus saved 140 million pounds which used to go as commission fees into the pockets of such middlemen.

The minister of supply added: As for vegetables, we find that there is the pressure of purchasing power on the part of the Egyptian citizen and this pressure has extended to all goods in a way that exceeds the supply. He has demanded the establishment of marketing cooperatives and producer unions whose most important tasks will be to discuss the production, marketing and export problems because an increased number of outlets contribute to delivering the commodity to the citizen at an acceptable price while insuring a reasonable profit margin.

The minister of supply added: The price balancing in which the Ministry of Supply is engaged and which is considered the primary objective of our policy is achieved by opening distribution outlets to eliminate the private sector's monopoly of the market. He asserted that the ministry exerts concerted efforts to stabilize meat prices and that the most important aspect of these efforts is increased imports at low prices. Livestock will also be imported from Hungary and prepared for immediate slaughter. We will import nearly 60,000 head of sheep during the next [al-Adha] holiday. The fundamental problem is the lack of pastureland in Egypt to enable us to produce.

Regarding poultry meats and the reasons for their recent disappearance, the minister of supply said: They are beginning to be more available in the market than ever before. Moreover, the supply of frozen poultry has eliminated the problem.

Finally, the minister asserted, on his own responsibility, that Egypt has a reserve of essential supplies to last 6 months or more and that this is enough to reassure us insofar as the reserve supply situation is concerned.

The loaf of bread was the starting point for a frank discussion with Dr Naji Shatlah, the minister of supply.

[Question] It is well known that the average per-capita consumption of wheat in Egypt is many times per-capita consumption in the world. The reasons for this are numerous, perhaps the most important being the quality of the bread produced, which makes people eat part of the loaf and throw away the bigger part due to the presence of hemp threads or sand in the bread. If the quality of the bread produced is improved, won't our wheat consumption rate drop, since the current rate of consumption certainly does not reflect our real wheat needs?

[Answer] Let us be fair. Bread production has actually improved. If you wait a little, you can see the random samples that the ministry collects daily from the bakeries. The truth is that there has been an improvement in bread production.

[Question] But it has been noticed that the loaf's quality has dropped below what it was when the price of a loaf first rose to 2 piasters.

[Answer] This manifestation may perhaps be due to the fact that the private sector still controls the bread industry. The public sector's share of bread production is still limited and does not exceed 20-22 percent whereas the private sector produces 78-80 percent. To be able to control fully the production of bread which meets the desired standards, we are currently exerting efforts to increase the public sector's contribution to bread production in accordance with fiscal circumstances and through the plan. In the first phase of the plan which ends in 1986-87, the production of the public sector bakeries will amount to 45 percent of the total production. Moreover, we have, God be thanked, launched the successful approach of utilizing the available labor and sites so that we do not saddle the state with additional burdens. This is why I have stressed to my colleague cabinet ministers the need to utilize the labor groupings in the companies which have housing for workers. These companies can produce the bread that at least meets their workers' needs, with the surplus supplied to the residents of the same area.

The minister of industry has responded to this plan and 30 company bakeries are now being built. It is my aspiration, considering the labor currently available at the ministry, to raise this figure to 150 new production lines [bakeries], thus increasing the public sector's share of this industry.

Ninety Million Loaves a Day

[Question] Has the Ministry of Industry actually begun implementing this plan?

[Answer] Yes. Thirty bakeries have been built for a start. This is a commendable direction. I have also submitted the same plan to my colleague the minister of interior, who has expressed his strong willingness to cooperate. The Ministry of Interior has [surplus] labor available in central security and in the jails. Such labor is not available to us. Therefore, we can cooperate with the Ministry of Interior in setting up the desired bakeries. At present, there is a memorandum before the Higher Policies Committee to cover these investments. The Ministry of Interior has been conducting a detailed study for nearly a month and this study confirms that the ministry has a production capacity of 2 million loaves a day. The ministry's average daily consumption is 1 million loaves. Therefore, it is possible for me to utilize the remaining million loaves and supply them to the citizens. I beseech God that we be successful this year in utilizing the human capabilities and the resources available in the public sector.

We produce 80-90 million loaves of bread a day. If 45-50 million loaves were produced by the public sector, we would be able in this case to control bread production in accordance with sound standards.

Flour and Black Market

[Question] There is a negative phenomenon in this industry, namely that the private sector bakeries get their share of the subsidized flour and then turn around and sell half of this share in the black market at high prices. What is your opinion?

[Answer] The reason for this phenomenon is that there are numerous flour prices: to nearly uniform price at which the flour is sold to the bakeries which produce bread and a lower price at which the flour is sold for the production of macaroni because the state is committed to selling macaroni at 13 piasters. As a result, one sack of flour is sold for 7 pounds and another for 13 pounds. This is why the macaroni producer has begun to smuggle part of the subsidized wheat and sell it on the black market. This flaw actually exists, we are aware of it and we will deal with it gradually.

[Question] The bakeries also sell subsidized flour on the black market. What is your opinion?

[Answer] The reason is the presence of a loaf which sells for 1 piaster and another loaf which sells for 2 piasters. Under our current policy, increasing the production of the better-quality bread will lead to dealing with this problem. There will also be a single flour price, God willing.

[Question] Then the minister supports the opinion that if we unify the price of bread we will eliminate the black market in four?

[Answer] When we started implementing the improved bread system, only 20 percent of the bread produced was of this quality. As a result of the citizens' demand for the improved bread, its production has risen to 75-80 percent of the total volume produced. This means that we are moving in the right direction toward unifying the flour price and preventing the flow and trade of flour on the black market.

There is another point, and it is not made in defense of the bread industry, namely that, any work done must contain a margin of error. The production of this enormous quantity--nearly 90 million loaves a day--must generate some error.

[Question] But it has been noticed that the margin of error in the bread industry is high.

[Answer] We must be fair. I am a field man and I tour the bakeries and see for myself. There is no doubt that the production of loaves that meet sound standards is very high.

Elimination of Middlemen

[Question] We produce 2 million tons of wheat and flour a year and consume 6 million tons. This is not an easy matter, especially since there are those who control the world wheat market and make the process of wheat importation difficult and not always feasible. What is your policy to insure an annual supply of these enormous quantities?

[Answer] When I took over the Ministry of Supply at the beginning of 1983, I found out that Egypt was getting its wheat needs in the following manner: 1 million tons from Australia and 1 million from the United States, with the rest purchased through international bids. Even though such bids are made legally and are 100 percent correct, there is the group engaged in the world wheat trade, which is a well-known group. It is possible that among them, the members of this group, who are well aware of Egypt's need for these large quantities of wheat, may exert pressure on Egypt in order to impose a certain price. This is why I have been eager since the outset to contact the producers directly in accordance with specific controls that keep the national economy free of the intervention of middlemen and of the commission fees they charge. These fees amount to an average of 10 percent of the transaction value and are collected from both the importer and the producer. Assuming that this commission fee is split, with 5 percent collected from us and 5 percent from the producer, and considering that we purchase wheat for nearly 2 billion pounds a year, then we can save from 100-140 million pounds a year in such fees by concluding contracts with the producer directly. This is a big figure from which the state can benefit.

[Question] Have we been able to succeed in this policy and to eliminate the middlemen?

[Answer] Yes. I started with the category that covers the biggest articles of our purchases, namely wheat and flour and then corn, oil and sugar.

We succeeded in 1983-84 in increasing the contract concluded between us and Australia to 2 million tons a year, instead of 1 million tons, for a period of 5 years.

We signed this contract nearly 2 months ago. We have also succeeded in opening another source of supply from Canada and we will get from there 600,000 tons a year for a period of 5 years. I will go to Canada shortly to sign this contract. We also get 1 million tons a year from the United States. Thus, the total contracted is 3.5 million tons. We are supposed to be consuming 4.2 million tons a year. Thus, the difference is 1/2 million tons or almost the consumption of 1 month. However, in my latest visit to Czechoslovakia, I was able to conclude a direct agreement for the acquisition of 300,000 tons. We will thus completely eliminate the system of bids for wheat while fully covering our need for this commodity.

[Question] And what about flour?

[Answer] Insofar as wheat, which constitutes a big part of our purchases, is concerned, I have agreed with the French (Simex) Authority to obtain from it an annual credit for 600,000-700,000 tons of flour. We also get nearly 400,000 tons of flour from the United States. Thus, we will have 1.1 million tons a year available to us. We consume nearly 1.4 million tons. With the latest rationalization measures, we can secure the remaining 300,000 tons from local production or through rationalizing.

Vegetable and Fruit Problem

[Question] Let us turn to vegetable and fruit prices. What is your opinion of the statement that the reason for the high prices is the poor distribution process and the lack of outlets?

[Answer] I will not say a lot. But I believe that when the commodity is available in quantities that meet the needs of all the citizens, then there is no problem of distribution. The fundamental issue is one of supply and demand. What has happened is that the supply is available and has been increasing year after year. But the purchase power has also been growing more rapidly. For example, if production grows by 5 percent a year, we find that the purchasing power and the demand are growing by 10 percent a year. This is the result of the enormous and pressure-exerting purchasing power existing in Egypt at present. As long as the purchasing power is greater than the supply, the price will rise.

Moreover, the production of fruits and vegetables continues to be largely confined to the private sector, which produces 90-95 percent of the output, whereas the public sector's output does not exceed 5 percent. I say here that the private sector must play its role. But the question is: who is responsible for distributing the private sector's products? Is the public sector responsible for it? Is it reasonable that I, as minister of supply, should be asked to account for the distribution of 95 percent of the private sector's production?

[Question] So what is the solution?

[Answer] The solution lies in what is done by all countries of the world which have preceded us in this regard. There are the so-called marketing associations and there are the producers' unions. Thus, every commodity produced has its specialized union or association. The task of this union is to examine all the production, marketing and export problems.

[Question] Associations similar to the Potato Producers Association which exists in Egypt now?

[Answer] Such associations must be established to include all the commodities produced so that they may examine the production, distribution, export and processing obstacles. What we are demanding is that each sector shoulder its own responsibility. The problem can only be solved by the people concerned. The private sector producers must organize themselves in unions instead of subjecting themselves to the public sector which takes some of their products from them at the expense of its resources. The major part is taken from them by the wholesale and retail merchants who control the production. For the private sector to be able to break the monopoly of these merchants, it must open special outlets and organize marketing cooperatives through which to supply the commodity to the citizens at an affordable price, with a reasonable margin of profit. Thus, the middle links are eliminated and the movement of supply will become gradually regular. If there is a surplus in a certain commodity after marketing, then the union must take steps to process such a commodity, such as setting up a sauce or jelly plant or other kinds of plants. This system is applied in all countries of the world.

Balance in Prices

[Question] What is the role of the Ministry of Supply in such a case?

[Answer] The fundamental task of the Ministry of Supply is to establish, as much as possible, a balance in prices.

[Question] What is meant by establishing a balance in prices?

[Answer] What is meant is to open as many distribution outlets as possible, buying from the producers directly and offering the commodities at the outlets at inexpensive and competitive prices so as to break the private sector's monopoly of the market.

For example, we find that there are everywhere in Greater Cairo, which is the main consumption center and represents 40-50 percent of Egypt's consumption, distribution centers belonging to the Ministry of Supply to market fruits and vegetables.

Presently, we are opening more such outlets so that we may be able to contribute to meeting at least 30-40 percent of the citizens' needs and in order to establish a price balance.

Our fundamental task as the Ministry of Supply is to establish price guidelines and then market through our outlets to establish the price balance in the market. But it is absolutely unreasonable for the public sector to market all of the private sector's products. The producers themselves must solve their problems.

Meats, Pricing and Butchers

[Question] Insofar as meat prices are concerned, we had established mandatory prices for the butchers, then shifted to friendly pricing and now have left the prices with almost no controls whatsoever. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Answer] The cost of meat production in Egypt is more than double the similar cost in other meat-producing countries. Why? Because Egypt has no relative advantage in meat production, meaning that it has no pasturelands and no natural resources for production. We import meats from abroad at a price of no more than 190 piasters per kilogram, including the cost of shipping. Why? Because there is a high relative production advantage and the resources for production are available abroad. But in Egypt, the cultivable area of land is limited. This is why the prices of meats in Egypt must be higher than similar prices abroad.

A second and very important point is the emergence of a new consumption pattern in Egypt. There are now classes that eat meat every day, even though meats were a luxury commodity for these classes in the past. Twenty years ago, when a citizen ate meat once a week, he was considered extravagant and a member of the privileged classes of society. At the time, the majority of the Egyptian people, especially in the countryside, ate meat on special occasions and holidays or once a month at most. If we take into consideration the current purchasing power and the small quantity produced because of the absence of a relative advantage, we have had to reach this situation we are witnessing at present, namely the obvious rise in meat prices.

Meat Imports Are Necessity

[Question] Will the situation continue to be as it is or is there a solution to this problem?

[Answer] The solution lies in imports. We currently import 100,000-120,000 tons of meat a year.

In my latest visit to Hungary, I agreed to import livestock prepared for immediate slaughter at a price that is nearly \$30 per ton lower than the prices offered by other countries. We also agreed on the supply of nearly 60,000 head of sheep on the occasion of the [al-Adha] holiday at prices competitive with the prices offered by any other country. Egypt thus benefits from the relative advantage enjoyed by Hungary where there are abundant pastures and plentiful animal production. Hungary also benefits from Egypt, which represents a major distribution market. There is another project in this regard. Hungary will breed the livestock and we will slaughter

and market the meat in Egypt. We will thus curtail the rise in prices and reduce the burden on the state embodied in the cultivation of clover and crops pertaining to livestock production at the expense of human food.

Despite this, what we import is intended to establish a balance in the market and to satisfy some of the citizen's needs at the subsidized price. Currently, we import meats at a price ranging from 170-190 piasters per kilogram whereas in the past we imported a kilogram at a price of 2.5 pounds and sold it at a subsidized price of 1 pound. Therefore, the state cannot offer every citizen all his needs for this commodity at the subsidized price, especially with the presence of this heavy consumption pattern and of the enormous purchasing power. Otherwise, we will be compelled to double the quantity of meats imported so that every citizen may eat meat every day. This means that the state's cash budget will go for the importation of meats and that we will have to terminate all the country's projects and wipe out the country's development movement. Is this what is desired?

Poultry and Fish Crisis

[Question] Regarding fish, which is sold in Aswan for 38 piasters per kilogram, we find that it is sold in Cairo at prices exceeding 2 pounds per kilogram. It is said that the reason is again distribution and the small number of outlets.

[Answer] Insofar as the High Dam Lake is concerned, it produced at one time abundant quantities amounting to 37,000 tons whereas the production has dropped this year to 22,000-25,000 tons. The reasons for this decline are numerous, the most important being the drop in the level of the water in front of the High Dam.

Another fundamental point is that the price at which fish was collected from the fishermen was 12.5 piasters per kilogram. This is an unfair price but there were social conditions which prevented raising this price.

However, the prime minister agreed during his visit to Aswan this year to raise the collection price from 12.5 piasters to 25 piasters per kilogram. As a result, the fishermen's income will increase and those who abandoned the profession will return to it. In fact, this has actually happened even though the decision was taken only last January. We hope that the production will rise to 37,000 tons again, even though the targeted production is 50,000 tons. The fish caught in the lake is shipped immediately. We have a shipping fleet of refrigerator trucks which works in coordination with the Ministry of Transportation to take these quantities to the distribution centers immediately. Moreover, we import 100,000 tons of imported fish which are sold at the distribution centers at prices ranging from 30-50 piasters per kilogram, depending on the variety. This helps greatly in establishing a price balance. But as I have already said, the pressure-exerting purchasing power and the new consumption pattern create some sort of pressure and lead to a certain flaw in consuming the available food supplies.

Why Disappearance of Poultry

[Question] It has been noticed that there has been a drop in the quantities of poultry meat offered for sale recently. Is the reason for this the decision to stop the importation of poultry?

[Answer] Insofar as poultry is concerned, there is a certain problem which must be clarified. In November, December and January of every year, the volume of poultry meats produced by the private sector rose sharply. As a result, the price dropped in this period, with the price of a kilogram of poultry meat ranging from 90-100 piasters. Consequently, we agreed, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and the producers, to stop imports in this period so as to give local production a chance.

But what happened last year as a result of certain circumstances is that egg prices rose to 12-13 piasters per egg. Regrettably, there are producers who always want to make the maximum gain the shortest time possible.

These producers turned what were supposed to be meat-producing chickens into egg-laying hens and produced in three cycles instead of five cycles so that the prices may rise. When November, December and January arrived, we discovered that the quantity of chickens marketed had dropped by a large amount in comparison with previous years and that egg production had risen to the point where egg prices declined considerably and a problem developed in marketing eggs. This year, we have begun to export eggs.

[Question] Is the crisis due to the lack of coordination between the ministry concerned and the poultry producers?

[Answer] The private sector producers must study their production and marketing problems, as I have already pointed out. The ministry gets part of its produce from the private sector farms and part from the government farms in order to establish balanced prices. After this, every group of producers must form their cooperative association for the commodity they produce and for solving its problems.

[Question] And what is the solution until the private sector forms such associations?

[Answer] We began more than a month ago supplying frozen chicken meat to the market and the crisis has actually begun to disappear.

Grain Loss

[Question] What is your opinion of what is being said regarding the amount of grain lost due to poor storage and regarding the statement that this loss is the main reason behind the recent rise in grain prices?

[Answer] These statements are largely correct. There is no doubt that the percentage of the quantity of grain lost during handling is very high and ranges from 5-10 percent at times, especially insofar as imported grain

is concerned. This means that if we import 5 million tons, we lose 250,000-500,000 tons a year, which are valued at 40-50 million pounds.

[Question] Do the figures mentioned in connection with grain losses exceed your figures?

[Answer] The figures I have mentioned are correct and any other figures are faulty.

[Question] What is the solution to this problem?

[Answer] To prevent this loss, we must develop and improve the means of handling and storing these commodities. Regrettably, and until this very moment, wheat is stored in open sheds in the same way the ancient Egyptians did. The solution lies in building silos and in having the grains shipped from the silos to where they are used, such as the flour mills or the bakeries, in vehicles equipped for the purpose and without human handling. This means shipping grains without using hemp sacks or hooks which puncture these sacks.

We have actually started working on the solution. When I took over the ministry, I found that steps had been taken to build a major silo in Shubra and another in Alexandria. The work on these silos started in 1978 and they were supposed to be completed in 1980. However, the work to build these silos has gone on until this moment because of numerous problems. When I came to the ministry in 1983, I began drawing up a specific timetable. Therefore, I expect, with success from God, the construction of these two silos to be completed this year. They have cost \$150 million advanced by the U.S. Agency for International Development [AID]. Work was also started on a third silo in Safajah in 1984. This silo, with a capacity of 100,000 tons, is expected to be completed in 1986. This silo is also being built with a grant from AID. All these are coastal silos built to receive grain at the ports. This is why we need another group of silos in the interior to replace the storage sheds. We have drawn up a plan for 16 silos, 12 of them for wheat and 4 for corn. Each will cost almost 5 million pounds and the project will be implemented within 3 years at the most. We will thus completely eliminate the phenomenon of grain loss.

Goods Are Available for Ramadan

[Question] Finally, what about your recent tour of Europe to secure the food and essential goods for the month of Ramadan?

[Answer] The primary objective of my visit to Hungary, East Germany and Czechoslovakia was to open new sources for the importation of food supplies and to eliminate the middlemen who nearly monopolize the trade in such goods. We thus save nearly 10 percent of the value of these goods for the state. In fact, God has given us success in doing three things: we have opened a new market in Hungary and have concluded with the Hungarians a contract for the importation of nearly 50,000 tons of edible oil for a period of 3-5 years. The cost of this quantity is 50 million pounds.

We have thus been able to save almost 4 million pounds by eliminating the middlemen.

The more important thing whose results will surface immediately is that Hungary has a consumer cooperative movement. Before the tour, I held talks to strengthen the cooperation between the consumer cooperative movement controlled by the Ministry of Supply and the Hungarian consumer cooperative movement. There is in Hungary an organization called Iskola International which builds very modern supermarkets. A protocol has been concluded which provides for this organization to start building a supermarket in Egypt as a model. We have chosen the town of Shabin al-Kawn for the purpose because of the availability of a site there. The project will cost 2 million pounds.

This sum will be covered through the exchange of goods between us and the Hungarians. We will have thus encouraged the export of Egyptian goods, in addition to gaining experience. We also agreed to build two other supermarkets, one in Alexandria and the other in al-'Atabah, with a supermarket being built each year afterwards. We will also cover the costs of these supermarkets through the exchange of goods.

In East Germany, we signed an agreement to import 50,000 tons of sugar a year for a period of 5 years. Previously, we obtained our sugar consumption needs through bids, except for a direct agreement with Cuba for a quantity of 125,000 tons a year. The rest of our needs, amounting to 500,000 tons a year, came through bids and middlemen.

We also succeeded in concluding a protocol for developing the flour mills which were built by East Germany in Egypt decades ago and which now need further development and modernization. Furthermore, we agreed with the East Germans to supply a certain flour mill model that uses unconventional equipment and that is attached to the other flour mills. They will design this model at their own expense so that it may be visible to the citizens in every agricultural association or agricultural grouping to show them how to utilize agricultural leftovers, in addition to urea and molasses to produce livestock fodder.

In Czechoslovakia, we concluded a contract for the importation of 50,000 tons of sugar a year for a period of 5 years, thus opening a new source, and for the development of 10 Czech-built flour mills in Egypt as a part of the Czechoslovakian loan for Egypt.

Generally, the supply situation in Egypt is very reassuring and supplies are available for Ramadan and afterward. We have an abundant supply of all kinds of foodstuffs to last for 6-9 months.

I again repeat at my responsibility as minister of supply that our reserves are enough for more than 6 months, which is an adequate reserve for Egypt.

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POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 10 Apr 85 p 10

[Article: "Islam's Open-door Policy Proponent Is Center of Gravity of Political Islam Movement"]

[Text] This week, the book "Before the Fall," the latest one by Dr Faraj Fudah, founder of al-Mustaqbal Party, was issued. Although the book, according to its author, contains a calm dialogue about the application of the Islamic Shari'ah, it will nonetheless stir up a violent outcry in political and intellectual circles because it deals with an extremely sensitive issue, the issue of Egypt's future in light of the growing current which calls for its conversion from a national state [dawlah qawmiyah] into a religious state. This current has developed in a fashion that has prompted many foreign observers to predict that Egypt will turn into another Iran in a matter of 2 years.

The issue of secularism was one of the questions over which Dr Faraj Fudah differed with the New Wafd Party, after having helped to found it. This chapter of the book that AL-AHALI is publishing describes the main tendencies nowadays within Islam's political movement. Like the other ideas in the book, it is arranged as a dialogue in which AL-AHALI hopes all those concerned about the nation and religion will participate. It promises to open its pages to dialogue so long as it observes the generally accepted rules of ethics and acceptable arenas for publishing in the public press.

Talk about the Islamic political tendency as a single political direction is a common mistake because it confuses three distinct currents: the traditional Islamic tendency, the revolutionary (and post-revolutionary) Islamic tendency and the wealth-oriented Islamic tendency.

Traditional Islamic Tendency

This tendency is represented in the Muslim Brotherhood current. It is a moderate tendency whose history tells us that some wings have adopted radicalism and resorted to armed underground organizations whose purpose has been to assassinate opposition leaders in democratic regimes or to overthrow the governments of totalitarian regimes. There is no doubt that the Muslim Brotherhood's leaders are the closest Islamic leaders to political action and

the most immersed in it. They always try to maintain the delicate balance between their claim that they do not seek official power and their involvement in political action whose only objective is power. Maybe the issue of "a group or a party" is the one that most preoccupies both their leaders and those involved in political action. Perhaps the political changes that have occurred since the death of brotherhood founder Hasan al-Banna until the Muslim Brotherhood's entry into parliament, for the first time, in an alliance with the Wafd in the 1984 elections had a positive influence on their gradual shift from a group to a political party concept. We must emphasize that Hasan al-Banna was very intent on refusing to link the partisan attribute to the Muslim Brotherhood. This was done to avoid getting into political struggles during the growth period and out of fear of being caught up in the partisan process, which necessitates the formulation of a political program, the pitfalls of which he was well aware of, for it represents a gateway for disagreement and conflict and, perhaps, division over minor issues.

Revolutionary Islamic Tendency

This is a tendency that began emerging at the end of the sixties and branched out into numerous organizational tributaries, the strongest of which presently is the Jihad Organization. These tributaries are brought together by a perception of the ignorance of contemporary society, the rejection of all available methods of political action and the rejection of the constitution as a positive system and of democracy, which is regarded as a secular alternative aimed at deceiving the people. This tendency believes in violence as the only course of action and views the discussion of any political issue as a biased attempt at diverting the tendency's efforts from the only goal which represents the only means for change, the seizure of power.

Wealth-oriented Islamic Tendency

This is a tendency led by some very wealthy people who by chance made their fortunes in Saudi Arabia and by a group of people who built their wealth in Egypt under the protection of the economic open-door policy with the direct help of the first wave of opportunists. The leaders of this tendency believe in the possibility of establishing an Islamic regime along the lines of the regime in Saudi Arabia whereby society would be divided into three groups: the first is the ruling group; the second, the wealthy group; and the third, the grassroots group. By virtue of the close relationship between the first and second groups, fortunes could be further amassed through the confirmation of the Islamic course of free trade, the rejection of pricefixing, the restriction of taxes to almsgiving and resistance to any leftist or even moderate rightist tendencies as a form of espousing destructive principles. At the same time, it is possible to preoccupy the grassroots group with issues of promoting religion and religiosity, fighting corruption, forbidding what is wrong, learning the limits ordained by God, obtaining limited donations on religious occasions and concentrating on the Garden of Bliss that the poor expect in the hereafter, thus protecting the wealthy from the dangers of rebellion by the lower classes. In other words, this tendency sees in an Islamic state no more than an ideal framework for accumulating more wealth and believes

that a closed internal political atmosphere, put forward by a religious state, can represent an ideal line of defense in confronting the left, instability or even the moderate right.

Modus Operandi

Based on the above characteristics, the modus operandi of each of these three tendencies may be deduced.

The first tendency (the traditional), which is relatively the weakest, believes in political action in the existing climate and has now declared through its leaders its intention to form a political party. It perceives that the present political climate--under the auspices of gradual democracy and in the absence of an ideological confrontation due to fear, complex calculations, future considerations and the interconnections of interest which the media leaders take into account--can accord it the possibility of obtaining a majority that would enable it to rule, or at least participate in ruling, or at the very least affect the forces over it. It believes that attaining power is the only way to put forth its program, represented in its being the party of God that rejects the party of Satan which is represented by others. However, it is ultimately the one most able to undertake political action and to conform to it, and it is beneficial for democracy to allow its adherents to set up their own political party, provided it is done within a framework of a totally democratic climate and complete freedom to form parties, publish newspapers and express opinions.

The second tendency (the revolutionary) is the most dangerous of the three, if not the most influential. It is distinguished by several clear traits: first, it concentrates on the 15-to-35-year-old age group and rarely has members who are older. Second, it concentrates on high school and university students for several reasons, including the opportunities for assembly, the almost total lack of responsibility of students and the potential for exploiting the social frustration caused by the conflict between moral and material expectations and aspirations of this critical age and the semi-closed social, class and political reality. Third and the most important, there is the total lack of ideological content in its organizational beliefs, a content which is limited to two sides: rejection as a point of departure and power as an objective while discarding any other issues that provoke controversy or disagreement. It is a course that may be criticized from the outside, but to those who revolve in its orbit, it seems very coherent. So long as everything is rejected, there is no use discussing the details, and so long as change is required, there is no use following any method other than seizing power as the only objective. And so long as seizing power is the objective, violence is the only method and armed organization the only way.

As for the third tendency (the wealth-oriented), it is, in my view, the strongest of the three tendencies by virtue of its being invisible. It is a tendency which, if ignored, becomes a missing link when analyzing the reality of the Islamic political current in Egypt. It is motivated by a more contemporary logic and, at the same time, is more capable of realizing its objectives.

It is more sympathetic to the traditional tendency, even though it does not belong to it for several reasons, most important of which is that it moves in a much broader orbit and is tied to more clearly defined interests. It belongs more to the framework than the essence and is tied more to interest than to ideology. By virtue of its financial situation, it shuns direct participation in political life and ultimately views the traditional current as nothing but a catalyst for a chemical reaction, but it does not appear on the other side of the chemical equation. On the other hand, it harbors deep hostility toward the revolutionary tendency, thus reflecting the ongoing conflict in the region between the two Islamic currents which rule two countries in the region, one revolutionary and the other radical.

This tendency has taken advantage of the economic open-door climate in Egypt and has succeeded in controlling a number of financial institutions represented in some Islamic banks and investment companies. It has succeeded, through these institutions and the wealth of its members, in creating and financing some projects that are vitally important to any ideological trend, such as printing and publishing houses that buy the cultural works of authors at phenomenal prices to link their ideological tendencies to them. They contract with them in advance to write on religiously flavored topics to guarantee the Islamization of their doctrinal tendencies in the short term. They participate in the establishment of newspapers and magazines linked to this trend, whether inside or outside Egypt, and contract with famous journalists and authors to work in them so as to link their economic interests to the founders' well-known and clear tendencies. The adherents of this tendency do not hesitate to work on other influential axes such as backing the candidates of the Islamic tendencies in the general elections, making it look like brotherly (internal) participation. They also have very clearly succeeded in utilizing the techniques of advertising the projects in which they participate to emphasize their political concepts and, at the same time, shed doubt on other prevalent concepts. Profits by Islamic banks are a permissible and agreeable matter and their activities are neither usurious nor "dubious." Furthermore, their dealings with state financial institutions represented in public sector banks, insurance companies and other institutions do not sully the money nor take away security. It prods the people to demand the opening of the doors of "Islamic" partnership to cleanse their money. And naturally, it is logical to conceive of the proviso that the employees of these projects espouse the Islamic religion and indeed go beyond that to impose "religiosity" and, with regard to female employees, go beyond good morals to impose the Islamic veil.

I will refrain from going into much detail about the methods of this newly formulated and highly influential tendency, except to underscore the fact that it is about the only effective civilian lobby that exists in Egyptian society through the skillful use of wealth and a clever orientation toward a specific goal, which is to await a favorable political and "international" climate.

The Contradiction

It is strange that the review of the three aforementioned tendencies leads us to a specific conclusion that (together) they possess the three basic elements

of strength: the acceptance of ideas, the strength of violence and the power of money. However, they suffer from a basic weakness which is the lack of what I put in parenthesis: togetherness.

The traditional tendency--by raising general slogans which are difficult to discuss or criticize and which make one-upsmanship easy, such as "the Koran is our constitution, the Prophet is our leader and death for the sake of God is our most cherished desire"; by putting forth some statements which the thinkers were not allowed to discuss and rebut their content, such as "Islam is a Koran and a sword and a religion and a state," etc.; by avoiding going into detail about the political program; and, in the absence of opposing tendencies, such as the Nasirite trend because of the "inadequacy" of the democratic formula or the secular trend because of the "recession" of democratic parties--the traditional tendency represents the ideological tendency most acceptable to the majority. As for the revolutionary tendency, it has been able to achieve its phased objective, which is to brandish the sword of terrorism in the face of the ruler and the thinker and to affirm its possession of the strongest potential to effect violent change through religious organizations, especially since the violence it puts forth is difficult to resist because it is so unpredictable and occurs on small scattered islands and could happen on an individual basis. On the other hand, it mixes terrorism and ideology, thus rendering assassination a holy war, death a martyrdom and imprisonment a ticket to a palace in paradise.

With regard to the third tendency, it is enough to say that as proof of its strength, its patron and guardian in the last regime were considered at home and abroad the only ones who controlled investments and investors in Egypt.

Perhaps here I can explain to the reader the obvious contradiction between the deep feeling of the strength of the religious political current and the clear failure to see it through to the end. The explanation is that all the elements of strength are abundant--a fact that generates this feeling--but are at variance and this is what is impeding the realization of the objective. Between abundance and aversion, God's mercy over his worshipers manifests itself.

12502

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MUSTAFA AMIN COMMENTS ON PRESS FREEDOM

Cairo MAYU in Arabic 15 Apr 85 p 16

[Interview with Mustafa Amin by Sana' al-Sa'id: "Freedom Begets Awareness and Impertinent Newspapers Are Killed by the People"; in Cairo, date not specified]

[Text] Mr Mustafa Amin told me: "In the past I gave you an interview for MAYU which was published in its entirety. I felt then that I was talking without fear or hesitation. Today, I am talking with more freedom, expressing my views in exactly the same way I breathe, and I sense that this time too the interview will be published." I said: "This is the strongest indication that the freedom we are enjoying today has both form and substance." He said: "I hope every Egyptian is in a position to enjoy it."

[Question] Freedom as a concept is difficult to adapt to every human being. Because it is linked to the degree of awareness each individual has, some people in our society may wish to behave as they please at the expense of the society in which they live.

[Answer] Freedom is what brings about awareness and not the other way around, in the sense that when people are given freedom, they do not violate the law. Violation of the law is a kind of protest expressed by those who do not enjoy freedom.

[Question] Something like a protest?

[Answer] A kind of protest or a feeling that the law is not in their interest. Therefore, the people should feel that every law is to their advantage and emanates from them so that they can respect it.

[Question] It is a truism that a law has to be in the interest of at least the majority.

[Answer] It must provide freedom whereby it can be discussed, debated and presented on TV, and its proponents and opponents must be able to talk. It must emanate from the people in order that they may respect it and not feel that it was drafted against their interests. Laws must provide security for the people, not just for the state alone.

[Question] One always tends to coddle the people and, amidst this coddling, does one fear the bestowal of slogans beyond the awareness shown by the groups who are inclined toward anarchy and demagoguery and the exploitation of any slogan to their advantage?

[Answer] The people's awareness is greater than that of their ministers. I have been to the lowest part of the city where I have found more character, virtue, friendship, loyalty and a sense of belonging than at the summit. I am not talking from a vacuum, but rather from very harsh experience during which I saw people as they really are. I saw them in the 1919 revolution when they stood against the greatest empire in the world. They faced Great Britain the day it emerged from World War victorious, with Germany kneeling at its feet. On 11 November 1918, Great Britain was proclaimed mistress of the seas and, on 13 November, 48 hours later, Sa'd Zaghlul went to the British Protectorate Building to ask the British to leave Egypt, and the revolution broke out. These are the Egyptian people. Lord Allenby sent a report, saying: "They did not violate a single British lady during the national movement. The people protected the sanctities and guarded businesses against plundering and looting."

[Question] This was in the past. Present-day society is different in its composition from the society of yesterday.

[Answer] Those people were molded out of the same clay as the people of today. The difference is the lack of good guidance which used to be found everywhere but has now disappeared.

[Question] The discipline experience is cited as an example of some people's inclination toward indiscipline. Despite the huge number of officers and soldiers who took to the field to enforce it and enlighten the people, some people resorted to condemnable actions on purpose.

[Answer] Discipline should have started in the government offices, then have gone out to the street and not vice versa. How can one respect the street if, when one goes to take care of one's needs, one is subjected to insults, villification and rudeness? First organize the government, then embark on regulating the street.

[Question] Speaking of guidance, the mass media embody one form of guidance, for they are supposed to develop the people's intellectual and behavioral faculties. We see them, however, as vehicles for flattering the basest social classes.

[Answer] Flattery is also for the highest social classes, not just the lowest. It is flattery of the government, due to the absence of a total freedom of the press, for the press, which used to belong to the people, now belongs to individuals. I believe that the press should be returned to the people in the sense that newspapers should be converted into companies owned by editors, workers and employees, that it should be owned by the people, provided that the share of any one individual be limited to 1,000 Egyptian pounds. The board of directors should be elected by the owners and the board, in turn, should select the board chairman and the editor-in-chief.

[Question] It is apparent today that we are enjoying freedom of the press, a claim supported by reports coming in from abroad. Indeed, some observers who follow this subject believe that Egypt enjoys ample freedom. The best indication of this is the freedom enjoyed today by the opposition press in Egypt, for it can tackle any subject it pleases and can say what is on its mind.

[Answer] I must admit that the press in Egypt today enjoys a freedom not enjoyed by any other press in the Arab countries. Editorials are not censored at all. However, I do not look at my freedom alone, but also at the freedom of others: freedom of the press as a whole and freedom of the people in the sense that every human being in any newspaper must be able to write with the same freedom as I do. This is the kind of freedom I mean.

[Question] I write anything that comes to my mind.

[Answer] You are very polite. You belong to a kind of polite and courteous journalism we call "Her Ladyship," but we are calling for a press we call "Her Majesty."

[Question] Must the free press be known for impertinence and slander?

[Answer] Of course not. Impertinent newspapers are killed by the people. Indeed, a newspaper that resorts to vilification and abuse is shunned by the people. They may be interested in one or two issues, but thereafter they sentence it to death. I have confidence in the Egyptian people. I am confident that they trample on the newspapers that violate the dictates of decency, good taste and tradition. People have more confidence in a decent newspaper.

[Question] What do you think, therefore, of the phenomenon that people are often attracted by derisive, satirical and comical material?

[Answer] The so-called sensational newspapers are, in my view, newspapers that provoke the ire of the rulers but do not contain sensationalism. Their owners disclose things that are found in the dark. There is a band of people that may see in darkness a theatre for freedom through which they can commit any crimes they please without being detected. Accordingly, light is represented in doing the unusual because it exposes people. These newspapers denude the band of darkness.

[Question] Don't people, at some point in their lives, need the element of secrecy and discretion in accordance with the claim that not everything that happens must be talked about?

[Answer] We kept silent for 30 years and Egypt witnessed more crimes than at any other time in its long history.

[Question] There must be other factors, as demonstrated by the fact that Egypt in the past did not witness the amount of crime it is experiencing presently, despite the freedom we are now enjoying.

[Answer] The crimes you read about happen all over the world. The difference between the past and present is that they were not widespread in the past, while today they are. Incidents of assault and rape have been present in Egypt for some time, as they are present in England, the U.S. and France. Freedom does not bring about such crimes nor does it drive people to commit them. Embezzlement in Egypt in some eras that enjoyed a measure of democracy was only a fraction of that which took place when Egypt did not have democracy.

[Question] Going back to derisive journalism, it has been noted that derision has become a means of communicating certain types of conduct to the people, insofar as we have become accustomed to buffoonery. We have no more seriousness or discipline.

[Answer] In England, respected newspapers such as THE TIMES, THE GUARDIAN, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH and PUNCH, and the ("MAGIC EYE") as well, are satirical and follow the same tactic as the derisive newspapers in Egypt. The U.S. has derisive and satirical newspapers as well. You cannot stop people from laughing. Laughter is the medicine of the people. Our people are sullen, they learned to frown and scowl in the age of dictatorship. Now, we are demanding that Egypt be given a chance to smile. I believe that a comedy show in Egypt is no less important than building a school.

[Question] This, despite what is being said about the existence of a kind of immoral art that has led to the decline of a young generation which has turned to crime?

[Answer] Worse crimes take place in other countries despite the absence of video, movies and radio. I do not believe that the movies, the video or the press is the cause of corruption and immorality. What caused immorality is the disappearance of guidance and education at home. Mothers and fathers no longer communicate and, consequently, there is no communication between them and their children. Family life has vanished. The second reason is that we have a shortage of books within the means of young people. Therefore, we have asked the government once again to subsidize Egyptian books, just as it subsidizes bread.

The third reason is that we have inherited dictatorship. Each of us is a dictator at heart and each of us wants to run life to his personal liking, so much so that people who disagree with others are labeled traitors and are shot. People are becoming tense and neurotic. Egyptians have not been that way, but 30 years of subjugation have altered their disposition.

A dictator begets more than one dictator. Accordingly, I believe that the more freedom people have, the more inclined they are to revert to their old selves. I liken dictatorship to a hurricane which, when it hits a city, drives people to flee the streets to their homes and close their doors and windows, which are reopened when the hurricane is over. Dictatorship is the hurricane that hit Egypt some time in the past, causing courage, friendship, chivalry, valor and commitment to flee and stay behind closed doors for fear of being arrested.

However, now that Egypt is gradually reverting to democracy, you can be sure that these attributes will return and we will once again see valor, courage, honesty, chivalry and commitment.

[Question] I basically disagree with you over what caused our society to lose the aforementioned attributes. I believe that they disappeared under the impact of material dominance inasmuch as the only things that rise to the surface these days are greed and the distasteful pursuit of money.

[Answer] When the doors were closed, people looked for glory and power and found them limited to a small group that monopolized employment and everything else. This is when people turned to materialism. In the past, people desired to be Sa'd Pasha instead of 'Abbud Pasha. They desired to be "Shawqi" instead of millionaires or to be "al-'Aqqad" instead of borrowing \$11 million from the bank.

Now, however, the only road to riches is larceny, especially when it was noticed that the government was robbing the people. The imposition of receivership at one point turned into robbery of individuals by the government and, therefore, the people had the right to emulate it. Government can set a good example when it becomes honest, when it refrains from wrongful sequestrations and receiverships and when it does not resort to reactionary laws. Only then can people revert to their own selves gradually. People have become abnormal under abnormal circumstances.

[Question] You mentioned the family as the basis for good guidance and upbringing and attributed the ills of our society to bad upbringing and attributed the ills of our society to bad upbringing and parental neglect. How can this be reconciled with the woman's natural, inviolable right to work, a cause which you have sponsored and crowned as a priority that must not be waived although it conflicts with the care of children who shape society?

[Answer] I believe that the Egyptian family collapsed when fear found its way to it. The family has been exposed to a drastic development. The present generation has been wronged and unjustly harmed. I call it the generation of frightened parents. A frightened and torn generation has been created in the absence of the unity which we experienced. There is no more strength or courage. I saw a mother in 1919 who was thrilled with joy when they were carrying away the body of her martyred son. Today's generation is frightened and troubled, a product of the "dawn visitor" generation. Whenever the man is away from home, they think he has been arrested or jailed.

[Question] Aside from these outside influences, what about the woman who has gone out to work leaving the children unattended and uncared for? How are the children brought up?

[Answer] In the past, the children of farmers, whose mothers went out at dawn to the field to work, excelled. They were not the children of Pashas but of working mothers. Therefore, when you say that women have gone to work and have abandoned their homes, I say this is not true. Women work today because a meal can be fixed in 5 minutes and the house can be cleaned in 10 minutes and, in the future, child-coddling machines will be invented.

Does this mean that all the children in Europe, the U.S. and Japan are de-praved because women in all these countries work?

[Question] Do you sense that the Egyptian man has been undergoing many changes that have robbed him of his past attributes such as gallantry, chivalry and the control and cohesion of the Egyptian household? Has he given too many concessions to women?

[Answer] I do not believe that the Egyptian man has given any concessions, although I believe that some of his rights have been usurped--but he has not given any concessions--because the Egyptian man in particular and the oriental man in general does not give any concessions and he still sits on the throne.

[Answer] No, I disagree with you. He still occupies the throne.

[Question] Is the usurpation of rights not an indication and proof that he has lost his competence in some situations?

[Answer] Not true. The usurpation of rights does not demonstrate his weakness or incompetence, for people sometimes usurp rights from the ruler and yet the ruler remains on his throne. This is not an indication of the ruler's weakness but rather a demonstration of his strength, for the strong are the ones who relinquish some of their rights.

[Question] Let's go back to the press. Some are infuriated by some newspaper editorials which they regard as more of a tool for teaching people how to exhort and guide than teaching them how to think.

[Answer] [The column,] "Fikrah" [lit. idea], which I write, is like other columns. I myself write the way I breathe and most of the newspaper columns are written by my children and students. You are trying to make me attack my children and I will never do that.

[Question] Some thinkers believe that the electron was not invented to transmit foolishness and recklessness over the air but rather to transmit intelligence, ambition and education. What do you think of what is being transmitted by the electron?

[Answer] This requires that some government news not be transmitted.

[Question] What about the immoral songs and programs?

[Answer] Sometimes immoral decisions are more abhorrent than immoral songs.

[Question] Has our society truly lost the ability to communicate, particularly since all we have now is open vilification and a fierce duel that may develop into a physical battle? Isn't the tone too high and sharp?

[Answer] You have lived in London and have seen how respected newspapers like the TIMES attack the government. The words that are used to talk about the government and the queen of Great Britain cannot be published by any newspaper

in Egypt. What we have in our newspapers is an image of our society. It is not the fault of Ahmad 'Adawiyah but rather of Ahmad 'Adawiyah's society.

[Question] You always have a hostile and uncompromising attitude toward the rulers, no matter who they are, what they have offered, what endeavors they have undertaken or what they have accomplished. Could this be your failing rather than that of the rulers?

[Answer] I do not hate the rulers, but love my country and want ideal rulers for it. Sometimes I ask for the impossible, but I dream the impossible for it. I know that rulers are fallible human beings, but I have a desire to have superhuman rulers because we have suffered more mistakes and crimes than any other people. That is why I feel that mistakes by the ruler aggravate the wounds and may lead to bleeding. The people came out of the past experience with wounds, and all I hope for is not to have any more mistakes. At the same time, I excuse the rulers because they lived 30 years as gods, then went down to the streets to find that they are treated as ordinary people. They need a good number of years to learn how to accept criticism and disapproval.

[Question] But do we not run the risk of losing prestige, which no doubt is the pillar that safeguards our values and morality?

[Answer] In our day, prestige used to mean that parents spanked their children; prestige in your day means that children love their parents.

[Question] You have been accused of clinging to the heels of the new leaders and opposing the old ones. Is Mustafa Amin a man of all ages?

[Answer] Some rulers, when they come to power, muffle the mouths and tie the hands and the only freedom they allow is the freedom to applaud. When they leave power, the closed lips begin talking and people come out of their silence. People cannot say the truth before a dictator or under a despotic regime or else they will be put in jail. The only way for a ruler to avoid posthumous attacks is to permit more freedoms in order that people may say what they think of him during his life so as to have nothing left to say after his death. The Koran itself cursed Pharoah, despots and Satan and if talk about the dead is a vice, Pharoah would not have been mentioned in the Koran.

[Question] The feeling of self-loss in a society such as Egypt is such that it may lead the people to deny the sense of self in others in order to assert themselves.

[Answer] This is due to the descendants of the frightened people. Frightened parents give birth to terrified children. Frightened people resort to lies and incitement. When one is not frightened, one is truthful. In my opinion, the disappearance of the society of fear will lead to the emergence of the society of truth.

[Question] Looking at the political parties around you, do you sense, as some do, that they only raise slogans that are empty of plans or of real ideas?

[Answer] The parties are still young. They are like the baby who tries to stand up, only to fall again, and who tries to stand up again. But if we put him in the crib and ask him not to move, he will become a cripple. Therefore, it behooves us to let them try to stand. In a few years, the child will grow up and be able to take off.

[Question] The immature party process, can it not provoke the audience, especially those who possess a degree of fertile awareness?

[Answer] The parties are immature because they had an unnatural birth. They came to life through a Caesarean section. Usually, it is the people who form the party, but we in Egypt have found that the government is the one who forms parties. The Wafd was formed before it got into the cabinet and so were the Constitutional Liberals and the Sa'dists. As for the National Party, it was formed while it was in the cabinet.

[Question] What does the publication of this interview demonstrate?

[Answer] That I speak without fear and express my opinions in the same way I breathe.

[Question] Is this not an indication that we are enjoying a measure of freedom that Egypt has not witnessed before?

[Answer] This is not true historically. Today we enjoy a freedom that Egypt has not seen since the outbreak of the revolution.

12502

CSO: 4504/319

TUNISIA

NATURE OF AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR MAGHREB STUDIES QUESTIONED

Background, Purpose Examined

Tunis AL-MAWQIF in Arabic 23 Mar 85 pp 8,9

[Article by Sihem Ben Sedrine: "An American Center for Maghreb Studies and an American University in Tunisia?"]

[Text] On 6 March of this year the Tunisian government concluded an agreement on cooperation with the American Institute for Maghreb Studies (AIMS). Created in 1983, this institute was an outgrowth of the American East Studies Association. The agreement calls for the creation of "a center for Maghreb studies in Tunisia." The agreement was signed in the presence of a delegation of Americans who stayed in Tunis 1 week. All of them belong to the American Institute for Maghreb Studies and include William Zartman, director of the institute and member of the Council on Foreign Relations; Carl Brown, deputy director of the institute and lecturer on the Arab-Israeli dispute and its historical dimensions; and George Sabbagh, specialist in population problems in Egypt and the Maghreb. He has conducted studies with Malcolm Kerr, former president of the American University of Beirut. Sabbagh is Jewish, of Iraqi origin, and is treasurer of AIMS.

What is the purpose of creating this institute, which is the only one of its kind in Africa and the Arab world? The only other one like it is in Latin America!

Why did the choice fall upon Tunisia?

Who is financing it?

How will this new center operate? What are the political repercussions of its establishment in our country?

In order to learn the answers to these questions, AL-MAWQIF first contacted those involved on the American side of this project and the Ministry of Higher Education on the Tunisian side. The ministry replied that this case did not fall within its jurisdiction, but was under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs assured us that it had indeed supervised the signing of the agreement to create the center, but it had turned the file over

to the ministry concerned, in other words, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. This is confirmed by the text of the agreement which states that there will be cooperation between the center and the Ministry of Higher Education "which is responsible for the center as far as administration is concerned." Thus it was not possible to obtain the official Tunisian viewpoint.

An Idea They Embraced

The agreement of 6 March stipulates that the objective of AIMS is "to facilitate research in various subjects having to do with the Arab Maghreb and to encourage the exchange of information concerning the Arab Maghreb." The American government is a sponsor of this center which was created at the initiative of AIMS, on the basis of an idea which came from an American researcher in sociology, Ann Radwan. She visited Tunisia last year, and AIMS embraced the idea.

It has been decided that the functioning of the center will not rely on a permanent team of researchers. On the contrary, the center basically will play the role of broker for American researchers. It will give grants for the study of subjects which "it deems appropriate"! Its administration will be in the hands of a director appointed by AIMS. He will be assisted by a joint committee composed of American members chosen by the AIMS board and Maghreb researchers, most of whom will be Tunisians. The committee will function in cooperation with the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, which is providing the site. In fact, construction has been completed of the building, located opposite the ministry. The ministry will also assume administrative responsibility for the center, which will include a library, lecture hall and administrative offices.

The center will be financed through a grant from AIMS, researchers' contributions, grants from American institutions and U.S. government assistance.

The center is expected to begin operating before the end of 1985, most likely next summer.

Why did the choice fall upon Tunisia? The Americans answer that the choice was made by "pure chance"! However, government support of this particular project shows that the Americans are trying to make it a conduit and foothold for gathering information about the Arab Maghreb region.

An American University?

At a later stage do the Americans intend to turn this center into an American university similar to those in Cairo and Beirut, as the newspaper LE MONDE indicated? In the news bulletin issued by the American information service in Tunis, we noticed a paragraph which stated, "In the future, other specific and clearly-defined agreements may be signed with a view to strengthening the free exchange of ideas and developing scientific research, upon consent of the ministries or departments concerned."

American sources denied this likelihood and attributed the project to the Tunisians. They made clear that this idea sprang from the desire of Tunisian authorities to reform the system of higher education and remove it from the domain of the French model by turning to the American model based on independent universities. The American sources add that in the event this pattern is chosen, they would be willing to help with implementation. With this background, Americans do not regard it unlikely that the center may be a catalyst for the creation of a dual Arabic-English language university.

The first question raised by Tunisian intellectual and university circles regarding the creation of this center is, "What benefit is there for Tunisia? Isn't the Tunisian Center for Economic and Social Studies and Research capable of overseeing academic research in Tunisia?"

The second question is, "Why aren't American researchers content with existing cooperation with the Tunisian center? Why do they insist on staking out "academic territory" for themselves in our country?"

We for our part assert that such centers have a well-known role in gathering precise information and data about other countries to help American political decision-makers steer their policy in a direction consistent with the interests of their government. The question assumes more dangerous dimensions with the serious likelihood that this center will be a motive force in creating an American university. It would be the third in the Arab homeland after Beirut and Cairo.

Benefit Questioned

Tunis AL-MAWQIF in Arabic 30 Mar 85 p 14 and 6 Apr 85 p 15

[Article by Bechir El-Mourabiti: "Once Again About the American Center for Maghreb Studies"]

[Text] When the Tunisian government concluded an agreement with the Americans regarding creation of the center for Maghreb studies in Tunisia, was it fully cognizant of the objectives and dimensions of this project? No matter what the answer, the Tunisian citizen is entitled to ask about the reasons and motives prompting authorities to sign an agreement which serves only the objectives of the United States.

The American party directly involved in this agreement is the American Institute for Maghreb Studies (AIMS) which is headed by William Zartman. Certain Tunisian and Arab academics familiar with American research circles say that three American universities are behind the project. They are Johns Hopkins, Princeton and U.C.L.A. These universities have centers for studies on the Middle East, and they joined efforts to create AIMS in 1983, following a meeting of the Middle East Studies Association.

The researchers who are overseeing this institute are the same ones who were in the American delegation which signed the 6 March agreement. In exploring their character, we can get a clearer idea about the institute.

Leon Carl Brown, historian and diplomat, is chairman of the Department of Middle East Studies at Princeton and deputy director of AIMS. He is known for research on the Arab-Israeli dispute and for his books on Tunisia such as "Tunisia: Policy of Modernization" and "The Tunisia of Ahmed Bey."

George Sabbagh, an American of Iraqi Jewish origin, is a researcher on social and population affairs. He is director of the Center for Middle East Studies at U.C.L.A. and is known for his writings on Morocco and Egypt.

The principal overseer of the project to establish the Center for Maghreb Studies in Tunisia is William Zartman.

With regard to his university activities and research work, Zartman is director of AIMS and professor of international studies at Johns Hopkins. He is a specialist in Morocco with his books "Government and Politics in Northern Africa"; "Wealth of the Ruling Family;" "Man, State and Society in the Contemporary Arab Maghrib"; and "The Political Elite in North Africa."

Zartman is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations in the United States and is well-known for his relations with Zionists in the United States. He is very influential in American university circles. Brzezinski, national security advisor to former President Carter, told Malcolm Kerr, former president of the American University of Beirut, when the latter was a candidate for the post of ambassador to Morocco, that William Zartman, who was a candidate for the same post, was in a better position than he, Kerr, because Zartman had the backing of the Zionist lobby (although ultimately neither one was appointed).

These facts do not require any comment.

The Tunisian government has already agreed to set up the studies center, which has no counterpart in Arab countries, Africa or Asia. We have to go to Mexico in Latin America to find a similar institution.

As its name suggests, the American University of Beirut is basically a center for teaching and learning. This university was founded in the 19th century and was "open" until the early 1970's. Since the outbreak of civil war in Lebanon, it has come under domination of the Maronite sect. It is presently under the direction of Samir Thabit, an extreme isolationist. Malcolm Kerr, an American of Lebanese origin whom we mentioned above, was president of it before being murdered under mysterious circumstances which may be linked to his refusal to have Maronite domination extended over the university.

There is also an American university in Cairo which was founded in the early 19th century. However, it is less significant in both size and influence.

We also point out that the American government tried to establish an American university in Morocco in the mid-1970's. The project was opposed by Congress, which was in conflict with Nixon in the aftermath of the Vietnam War.

Let us return to the Maghreb studies center. This institution will be financed by two sources--the American universities which founded AIMS and the United States Information Agency. This brings into question the credibility of an academic institution which receives backing intended for propaganda and information.

As far as the purpose of establishing the center is concerned, the Americans say that it is to develop bonds of cooperation in the field of studies and research having to do with the Arab Maghreb, encourage the exchange of information about the Arab Maghreb, and enable researchers to coordinate their studies on the Arab Maghreb with their Tunisian counterparts.

More precisely, this means helping and supporting researchers for the sake of gathering the most information possible on the countries of the Arab Maghreb with regard to their population, economy, society, politics, culture, and the motive forces already existing within them or likely to play a role in the future.

Thus the center is expected to obtain entry visas, facilitate contacts with institutions, establish ties with researchers and engage some of them as partners in examining and gathering information. It will thereby play the role of connecting link between countries of the Arab Maghreb and American research institutes, in particular AIMS, which will undertake the study and analysis of information.

The Tunisian government has agreed to move quickly to establish this center. It appears that the Tunisian government has neither asked nor inquired about the purposes and uses of the information which the center will be responsible for gathering, the probable effects on local researchers or the nature of certain activities which the center will very likely undertake, such as a study of political movements, for example.

Whatever the case may be, the benefit to the Americans is clear, but what good is there in this for our people?

7811

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ISRAEL

MUHAMMAD NASR INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Mar 85 p 7

[Interview with Muhammad Nasr by Pinhas 'Inbari; place and time not specified]

[Text] Of all the personalities identified in the past with the Village Leagues, it seems that Muhammad Nasr of Dura, on Mt Hebron, is the only one who "lifted a finger" following the difficulties and disappointments, and he remains committed to his approach even after Israel herself concluded that it was not worthwhile to continue with the "Village League policy."

He recently convened a meeting in his house--part political, part social--in which he succeeded in bringing together under one roof people who, in the past, had been identified with the committee for a national orientation, as well as supporters of Jordan, such as Burhan Jabri from Hebron. Nuhammad Nasr was also invited to a liberal congress in West Germany, where he lectured on his views about a solution to the Palestinian problem. With the resumption of the political process via the Mubarak initiative and the Husay-'Arafat agreement, I wanted to examine the point of view of people such as Muhammad Nasr--and, in general, find out what he thinks after the experience of the Village leagues.

[Question] Recently there have been indications of renewed political activity on your part--what is the aim?

[Answer] The political activity, in fact, has been continuous and is not conditioned by present circumstances. I feel that political activity on the West Bank is essential, but the reasons for the political freeze, at least on my part, are beyond my control and connected with the Israeli attitude on the subject. As to the meeting in my house, it is not political activity in the usual sense. Because of the political freeze people want to meet, but that does not mean that they have a political program. It was simply consultation in the hope that sanction would be given to political work.

The Inhabitants of the Territories are the Foundation

[Question] There is inter-Arab activity on the question of peace--the Mubarak initiative, for example. What is the purpose of the activity on the West Bank?

[Answer] The main theme is the Palestinian question. The basis of the Palestinian question is the Palestinian people, more precisely, the people living in the West Bank and Gaza. All sides are involved in the position of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, including Yasir 'Arafat and his separatist opponents. Everyone knows that the residents of the territories are the key. If there is inter-Arab activity I do not believe that it negates the function of the West Bank and Gaza. No Arab role without the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza can have any significance. Therefore the activity of the West Bank and Gaza is the key.

[Question] King Husayn has PLO support. Isn't that stronger than the support of unorganized individuals in the territories?

[Answer] I believe that the PLO acquired that right at the Rabat Conference (which declared it the only legitimate representative of the Palestinians--P.I.), but King Husayn in no way gave up his special ties to the residents of the West Bank and Gaza. We do not oppose that. On the contrary, we support 'Arafat's move in coming to an agreement with Husayn, but I believe King Husayn knows full well that if 'Arafat cannot maintain contact, after all his only reserve for the renewal of contact with the West Bank... (he does not complete the sentence). Our activity does not negate the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement. On the contrary, the only Palestinian sector that supports the agreement are those on the West Bank and Gaza. 'Arafat has no other support because the Palestinians outside the West Bank and Gaza are not with him on this.

But the Palestinians in the territories know that their essential problem is the Israeli conquest, and they want to do away with that conquest and they know that the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement is the beginning of the end of the conquest. Furthermore the agreement will not gain strength except through the support of the West Bank and Gaza.

The Result of the Will of the Conqueror

[Question] Is the role of the West Bank only to strengthen, i.e., a secondary and not a main role?

[Answer] Arab policy, Arab governments and the world powers have always given the Palestinian people a secondary role. This has been an essential aspect of Palestinian history for decades. Therefore the fate of the Palestinian people has been entrusted to Arab hands or to foreign hands. But I believe the Palestinian people, and especially those living in the West Bank and Gaza, are the main power. Time will show that the voice of the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza is the only voice that will support the path of peace and it is that voice that will determine the future of relations between Jordan and the Palestinians or the relations between Jordan and the rest of the Arab world. The day will come when Palestinians will have the power of self-determination, without having to deal with outside powers.

[Question] Why is it the case that to this day the Palestinian voice in the territories is not organized? Is the fault entirely Israel's as you hinted at the beginning?

[Answer] First of all, it is not true to say that there is no organization in the West Bank and Gaza. There are (political) organizations in the West Bank and Gaza. But those organizations are not public because of the conquest and the laws applied in the territories. Jordanian law forbids political activity, and Israel found it in her interest to apply that law. Therefore the lack of political activity is the result of the will of the conqueror.

[Question] Does the existence of a political system, even a secret one of organizations connected to the PLO, despite the will of the military government, as compared to the disappearance of other organizations such as the village leagues, perhaps show something about the vitality and survivability of this kind of system?

[Answer] Every political organization reflects the interests of the group or stratum that it represents. The Palestinian people, like every other people, like the Israeli people, is represented by several factions. It is impossible that these factions will disappear because they represent its interests, economic and social. But were these organizations able to operate freely and openly, that would provide all the groups an opportunity to express their ideas. At the moment, because of Israeli policy not to allow activity by open groups, the impression has been created that all the inhabitants of the West Bank are organized as secret organizations or as organizations that do not want a peaceful settlement.

As to the Village Leagues--they were never a political organization. They had no political program. Therefore their weakness was in no way connected to the question of support by the Israeli authorities or any other external bodies. They were doomed to fail from the beginning. Their failure was the consequence of an internal defect and their inability to conduct political activity.

The Palestinian Function in the Camp David Agreements

[Question] The opinion has been expressed that the Village Leagues were brought into existence by Israel and killed by Israel...

[Answer] The Village Leagues came into being as institutions intended to provide services to villages that had no town councils. Several members of the leagues imagined that perhaps the movement would turn political. But that was defective reasoning. A political movement needs a political program, a cadre capable of conducting political activity, a leadership that can interpret the program for the people--from the beginning the Village Leagues had none of these. There were no foundations capable of preparing a program according to the circumstances or of interpreting them as any kind of

program or political movement. If there was anyone who thought that the leagues could be a substitute for a political organization, he was making a big mistake.

[Question] But it is well-known today that the Village Leagues were intended to play the Palestinian role in the Camp David agreements.

[Answer] A political movement is a particular kind of organization. An organization must have leadership. The Village Leagues were not like an organization of this sort. Within the leagues were those who imagined that there would be political significance in the dialogue between the Israeli people and the Palestinian people. But the will of the Palestinian people and the fact that within the leagues there was no long-term foundation brought about their death in a natural way. I do not blame either the civilian administration or the Israeli authorities for the demise of the leagues. The fact of the matter is that they were stillborn. Even if Israel has marshalled support for them, the result would have been the same. We knew that, and when we tried to develop a movement or to create a political organization, we ran into opposition. This is proof of the fact that the authorities had no intention of developing the leagues in a political direction.

The Silent Majority Does Not Express Itself

[Question] Then what is the lesson to be learned from the failure of the leagues?

[Answer] The lesson to be learned has two sides. The Israelis must learn that it is impossible to create a political organization by Israeli hands. The Palestinian people must learn that it has to acquire full freedom to express itself politically. The political organization must express its desires and the interests of the various groups with the Palestinian people. If Israel should try to create another political entity, I am telling you that it would be foreordained to fail. Israel already has several failures in this matter. The Palestinian people is not basically against peace, but it wants true leadership that is responsive to its rights and interests. I believe that the previous attempts did not provide this people with that kind of leadership.

[Question] Are you also talking about the PLO?

[Answer] No. I am not talking about the PLO but about the attempts by the authorities to create organizations "inside." As to the PLO, there is no doubt that PLO thinking expresses the interests of some of the groups or strata that belong to them, without taking size into consideration. But, unfortunately, the Palestinian people has not acquired the right to organize itself or set up civilian bodies of a political character. Therefore the minority has the initiative while the silent majority is left unable to express itself. The majority of the Palestinian people support peaceful

coexistence and recognition of Israel, and direct negotiation. From this starting point, it seems to me that the majority of the inhabitants of the West Bank support the Husayn-'Arafat initiative to reach a definitive agreement, and they see it as a first step toward peace.

[Question] You once wanted to set up a "Democratic Movement for Peace." Do you still cling to that idea?

[Answer] I would have to reconsider, and it may be that I would not take that step under the present circumstances. Conditions have now changed completely. The appearance of a political organization with the ideas of the "Democratic Movement for Peace" might be misunderstood in the Arab world. Therefore the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza must support the initiative without requiring political frameworks, in order to allow the sides, the Jordanian and the Palestinian, to reach an agreement that may bring about the end of the conquest.

Today circumstances have changed and I am sure that 'Arafat will have the courage to continue though I doubt if the PLO has appreciated that on its way to the finish line.

The only choice that exists today is peace, and the Palestinian people is conscious of that fact. The broad meaning of peace is the rights of the Palestinian people and, simultaneously, recognition of the State of Israel. This means negotiating with Israel and recognition of the right of the Jewish people to its own country and to live in secure and recognized boundaries.

9794

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ISRAEL

CIVIL DEFENSE SHELTERS FOR GALILEE SETTLEMENTS PLANNED

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 85 p 17

[Text] The national budget for the current fiscal year will permit the construction of about 1,000 square meters of shelters in northern settlements-- according to a report from civil defense headquarters and area defense.

According to data from this headquarters, additional public shelters will be built during the current year in Qiryat Shemoneh in an area of 250 square meters instead of the 700 square meters as required. In Naharia next year according to the forecast, public shelters will be erected with an area of 325 square meters instead of the 2,000 square meters required. This construction is in addition to the filling in of gaps in rural settlement shelters, which is being carried out in cooperation with government ministries. The remaining budget will be divided between the settlements, the area councils and the educational institutions in the north of Israel.

As for Bet She'an, according to Colonel Ya'aqov, who heads the defense and settlement department within civil defense, there is no lack of shelters except for irregular ones, which will be sited in a survey to be conducted there shortly.

A Lack of Real Estate

Colonel Ya'aqov noted that the civil defense command is now conducting a land survey to locate gaps in shelters, that will conclude within approximately a year and a half. The survey is being conducted house to house according to master programs in the various settlements, with the assistance of different civil defense districts and engineers drafted for that purpose. According to existing data, the country is now covered by shelters over 84 percent of its surface. However in the Tel Aviv area the coverage is 74 percent, and in Jerusalem and Haifa as well the shelter coverage is below the national average. The main reason for the low shelter coverage stems primarily from a lack of real estate reserves for the construction of shelters in the centers of cities.

9794

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ISRAEL

UMM AL-FAHM GIVEN CITY STATUS

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Mar 85 p 6

[Article by Kasim Za'id: "Umm al-Fahm--an Israeli City"]

[Text] A common joke in Umm al-Fahm has to do with a resident of the village (which this week was granted city status) who was asked what he had to do to become urbanized and answered: the citizens of the new city have to pass a municipal driving course. The resident added that the people of the new city also had to speak with a city accent and that the peasant dialect was henceforth forbidden.

This jocular mood of the inhabitants in fact reflects bitterness and despair over the catastrophic situation in which they find themselves. Interior Minister Yitzhaq Peres' announcement to the government of the decision to grant municipal status to Umm al-Fahm and the warm message of congratulation to the chairman of the Umm al-Fahm town council by Ministers Peres and 'Ezer Weizmann and MK Victor Shem-Tov, largely succeeded in blunting that bitterness. The residents are now hoping that on the heels of Minister Peres' announcement the attitude toward the city will change and that that shift will be followed with deeds.

The members of the Umm al-Fahm town council and the residents greeted the Interior Ministry's decision to grant the town municipal status as an unexpectedly pleasant surprise. They had feared that the town would not meet the criteria. They did know that the number of inhabitants, now approaching 30,000, could be the decisive factor in their favor.

Sewage Water on the Outskirts

The chairman of the council, Hashim Mahmid, made no attempt to conceal his surprise at the decision, saying: "I always believed that we would be granted municipal status, but I did not think it would come so quickly." Mahmid, whose joy was mixed with bitterness and pain, says that sewage water flowing on the outskirts of the town constitutes a nuisance and a danger to the lives of the inhabitants. Because of it, an illness characteristic of Umm al-Fahm has spread. The rate of children and infants with contagious diseases is higher than in the rest of the country. Mahmid continues bitterly: "A few years ago we completed stage A in the town sewer project, but because of insufficient budgets we had to stop. The time has come to rid us of the sewage embarrassment."

According to Mahmid the education situation in the town is not the best. The educational system in Umm al-Fahm is short 70 classrooms. A complete school is using rented rooms that are fit for animals. Last week members of that school's parents committee broke into the council building. They fought with the council's chairman and broke equipment in the building. The council chairman says that despite the irresponsible behavior by members of the parents committee, it is easy to understand why they did it. "Were I in their place, I would have done exactly the same thing." The general director of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Eli'ezer Shemu'eli, who visited that very school a few months ago, said: "It is a disgrace that a school has to operate under these conditions in the State of Israel."

Cafe Culture

There is no cultural life and no clubs in Umm al-Fahm. The city's cafes are jam-packed with Arabs, most of them young boys and teen-agers. The problem of juvenile delinquents is getting worse. The obligatory education law is hardly enforced. Hundreds of students have dropped out of school and many are drug addicts. Parents who work outside the town leave for work early in the morning and return late at night. These parents have no time to take care of their children or to visit the schools in order to keep on top of their children's educational level or behavior. For thousands of workers, Umm al-Fahm is nothing more than one big bedroom.

With the meager budget at the council's disposal, it is difficult to assure a base for key resident services. The council's debts approach 600 million shekels. The only index to the soundness of the council's activities is the payment of salaries to workers. It has been 2 years now that the council has been unable to implement any project at all in the town. Studies in the town school were suspended by strike for 45 days while teachers insisted that their salaries be paid. The agreement that brought the teachers back to work included an obligation on the teachers' part to give back the lost strike time by lengthening the instruction day and teaching on holidays, in exchange for payment during the time of the strike. The Ministry of Education and Culture did not approve this agreement and withheld 45 million shekels from the council's budget. Council workers also went on strike for a month in protest over the non-payment of their salaries. As a result of the strike, the town was turned into a garbage dump and there was a cessation of work.

Schoolchildren were forced to go house to house soliciting contributions to buy writing implements for the classrooms. Piles of trash filled the schoolyards and the students filled in for the janitors who were on strike for a month. The residents hope that now government ministries will provide the wherewithal to extract the new city from its difficult situation, which is unparalleled in the country.

The council chairman, Hashim Mahmid, is inviting all the ministers to visit Umm al-Fahm to see for themselves the situation in the town. "I am convinced

that any minister who visits Umm al-Fahm will blush from shame at what he sees, and, despite the country's severe economic situation, I am sure that those same ministers will give the city preference." He thanks all those who helped in bringing about the decision so that it would not remain a paper decision only.

Mahmid hopes that industrialization will not pass Umm al-Fahm by and that the ministries of industry, commerce and tourism will consider it for development projects, which would redound to the benefit of the inhabitants. Mahmid does not take lightly the decision to grant Umm al-Fahm municipal status: "In my opinion it came about as part of the government's liberal political policies toward its Arab citizens." He does not absolve himself and his colleagues of responsibility to get the city going again. "All of us must increase our awareness and sense of responsibility to our town." Mahmid hopes and believes that the Interior Ministry will soon set up a team of experts to assist the city administration and its workers in improving operational efficiency.

9794

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JORDAN

INTERVIEW WITH QUEEN NUR IN ISRAELI PUBLICATION

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Mar 85 Weekend Supplement pp 10-19

[Interview with Queen Nur by Scott MacLeod and Layla Diab; in Amman, date not specified]

[Text] Living under the constant Middle Eastern sword is not like a fairy tale. Nur-al-Husayn insists she never dreamed of being a queen. Her education did not prepare her for the career, either. She does not even consider her life as the realization of the Cinderella story. Her king survived 11 attempts on his life. His cousin, Faysal, king of Iraq, was assassinated in the 1958 revolution. His survival battle is vicious. He is in constant danger. Hardly a month goes by that he does not have to contend with one catastrophe or another, overt or otherwise. If he survives, he may enter the annals of history as an astute politician, God willing. His only safe support, one that he can rely on blindfolded, day and night, is Queen Nur, his wife and counselor.

One such crisis occurred on the evening of this interview. The royal palace in Amman was in turmoil. A Jordanian diplomat was assassinated in a European capital. It was raining. The forecast was for a stormy night within the palace, too. Queen Nur left for a condolence call. The press secretary advised the reporters to wait and in the meantime they were offered a cup of Turkish coffee and a dish of peanuts. The muezzin in the Jabal Nuzha mosque was announcing the evening prayers. Can Husayn be thus consoled?

The queen arrived 3 hours late, when the reporters almost gave up on holding the interview. "Come, join me," she suggested, apologizing that she had to leave again for a short time. "I have to kiss the children good night. In other circumstances I could, perhaps, be a better mother, but even so, I try to not let my royal duties come at the expense of being a wife and mother." They left her office in the villa al-Mawas by car and drove around the palace grounds. The events of the day had not left their mark on the 33 year old queen. In the evening she was still alert, did not hide her sense of humor and the warm side of her personality. Queen Nur seemed full of energy.

"Actually, I hate interviews," she laughs. "But I do tend to keep my obligations. I promised and I keep my promise. In addition, if we reach an understanding, it will only be for the good of Jordan. The problem is that I also have to contend with other issues."

A few weeks after the interview, the royal couple were to celebrate their 7th anniversary. Nur is already a mother of three. Tall, blond, with blue eyes and strikingly beautiful. After the death of Prince Grace of Monaco, she is the only royalty of American extraction. She is thoroughly American, but with a Middle Eastern ancestry. Her roots, to be precise, are in Lebanon. She was born in Washington, D.C. to an immigrant family from Zahlah, as Lisa Halabi. She studied architecture and urban planning at Princeton. Eight years ago she happened to be in Amman and got a job with Alia, the Jordanian airline. This is how she met Husayn.

It was an interesting incident. Alia is also the name of the previous queen, who was killed in a helicopter accident before Lisa met Husayn. A year later the 40th generation direct descendant of the prophet Muhammad proposed to the American beauty. Lisa agreed and did not even object to changing her name to a properly sounding Arab name. Her new name means Husayn's light. It is properly suited to the mood that the 26 year old woman inspired in the 44 year old king.

For her Jordanian subjects the new queen was a mystery. They did not know how to accept and how to treat her. She herself admitted that in spite of her Lebanese ancestry Islam and Arabic were foreign to her (although on some other occasion she maintained that from the day her father told her about her ancestry she felt Arab. She is not nationalistic but she identifies with the Arab cause). The new queen considered these handicaps as a personal challenge and tried to fill the gap, although she did not consider it her foremost goal. Her first priority was King Husayn, the man. To be precise, she was more concerned with his health. To her he seemed overweight and not to exercise enough. Nur, who was very active in sports, who spent hours playing basketball, volleyball and field hockey, understood that she would have to abandon these hobbies. Her husband, too, is usually busy in his palace office with state affairs and activities, which are primarily sedentary. She decided to keep in shape doing aerobics under private instruction, which she can now afford.

For the king, she bought--almost as a wedding gift--a stationary bicycle. Today it stands in their dressing room. "We live in close quarters," she laughs. Their three children (Hamza, 5; Hisham, 3; and Imam, 2) were added to Husayn's eight children of his previous marriage. Husayn practices on his bike, which serve as a substitute for tennis and riding, his favorite sports.

Nur claims that the King has no time for his other hobbies, amateur radio and flying, because he is so busy and has no time, only because he lives and breathes the Palestinian problem, the Palestinians constituting 60 percent of his subjects. "If he had more leisure time he would spend it in the cockpit. He flies on our trips, but those are rare," she says.

For lack of choice and just so he does not gain weight to the point of a heart attack (common in his age group and considering the constant pressure he is under) "I try to ensure that at least he has a healthy nutritious diet. Sometimes I get to the point of nagging," says Nur. "Over the years I worked with physicians and dieticians and I learned to create menus which are

nutritious, tasty and not fattening." But what can one do if the king prefers fried hamburgers? The queen pressures him to change his ways and follow "my way, which is healthier." One of her important accomplishments: oriental sweets, typically oozing with sugar, are no longer on the royal table.

In their 7th year of marriage, the royal home is a happy home for Nur. "To my chagrin, we don't distinguish enough between work and daily life," she says. "Sometimes we have to send the children on vacation without us. We pray and we always say that with God's help we will have time for more vacations in the future. I know how much we sacrifice and we feel, no less than our children, that we don't spend enough time together."

There are two things the royal couple manage to do on a more or less regular basis. "The king loves movies, mostly Westerns and war movies. As long as they have some romantic angle, I don't mind. He admires John Wayne and I like Walter Matthau. For Husayn movies are a perfect and important escape. We watch them on a giant screen in our living room, connected to a video. The screen is so large as to seem like a monstrous statue, although it is not."

The preferred way, however, for the couple to release tension is to sit at home and read the American press. In a nearby room the telex spits news bulletins, mostly those pertaining to the Middle East. "We read and exchange ideas," says Nur. The style? "we do not curse, but we are sometimes very blunt," she adds, smiling.

The queen hesitates to initiate political discussions in her conversations with Husayn. She knows his frustrations which stem from his daily dealings with them. But if he brings up the subject, it obviously is different. The good wife often has to confront the king's political problems. Except that the tone of the conversation, in these cases, is free and candid. "At least like other people discuss household expenses." Nur says she prefers to listen and encourage the person she is talking with, although she does not hesitate to speak out her mind if she has an opinion on the matter. After all, their relationship developed, when, after the tragic death of his previous wife, Husayn found in her a loyal friend and a good conversation partner. She herself stresses how much in common they have on many subjects.

"Except that in all that is connected to politics, I try not to burden him unless he wants it. When he comes home we spend time together. This serves to balance things for him, but I cannot always resolve his problems. I try to ease weariness or frustration. One way is with humor. We don't spend much time telling hysterical jokes, but sometimes we laugh about matters which may deserve more serious attention. Sometimes humor is healthier."

Over the years with the king, the queen has established her political niche as a result of her public appearances, especially abroad, when she proved to be a dependable spokeswoman for Jordan's political stands. Nur not only adorns the openings of institutions and plants, but also initiates and encourages various cultural, social, educational and health related activities, especially for children and young people. She uses her influence to cut down red tape which stands in the way of constructing a school or a hospital. Recently she

organized an art festival, which was held on the site of the Roman city of Jerash, the Jordanian response to the Lebanese festival in Ba'labakk.

She plans on repeating a press relations trip that she made to the United States last year. Nur spoke in Washington at some prestigious clubs. When she referred to the Woodrow Wilson campaign for human rights, she asked: "Why does the United States refuse to implement this for Palestinians?" But the queen rushes to clarify: "One should not conclude from this that I have any say so on my husband's decisions or that I have much influence on him."

Nur maintains that she does not try to influence her children's political thinking, either. "One must be careful not to scare young children. They are afraid enough as it is of wolves and other fairy tale creatures that they hear about in the bedtime stories. They will have enough opportunity when they are older and are involved in real situations."

Husayn's children obtain ideas on the Middle Eastern conflict in school. Among others, on relations between Israelis and Palestinians. The queen does not hide her dissatisfaction with what she hears at home. "These are senseless pronouncements on who is bad and who is good. Sometimes I am harsh with them and I tell them, 'This is absurd. You have no idea what you are talking about'." Nur reflects: "We need tolerance and understanding for the future. I want my children to understand this from a young age."

She, Nur, hopes for coexistence in the Middle East. "So that my children will not face hopelessness, conflicts and confusion." She refers to the dangers facing Jordan and the king in a fatalistic manner. "This is his life and I cannot isolate him from it. As long as he is all right, I am happy. I will give my life for him. At present many people live in fear. We live with the possibility that things could happen and it may be that there are those who feel they may gain by hurting us. I am not a fairy tale queen. If we allow fear to dominate our daily lives, our spirit or our resolve to go on, we will not be worth much."

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SAUDI ARABIA

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MINISTER DISCUSSES VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, DEVELOPMENTS

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic 17 Apr 85 pp 3-15

[Interview with Minister of Industry 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil: "This Year the Foundation Stone Has Been Laid To Provide Electricity for Wadi Al-Dawamir and Complete the Ha'il and Tabuk Project Next Year"]

[Text] The long conversation we held with His Excellency the Minister of Industry and Electricity Eng 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, which we are presenting to you in this issue, contains and includes features of future industrial activity which is concentrated on the new development plan and is in harmony with the budget set out according to calculations regarding the new scope and requirements of industry. No matter how concentrated and expansive any introduction may be, it cannot approach the spirit of the conversation and discussion with His Excellency Eng 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, apart from the details. The conversation, the discussion, has ramifications and deals with everything that concerns the nation regarding one of the most intensely important aspects of its future life, industry, which is considered the firm national base for our strength and future, as well as being one of the main alternatives to oil resources, which are dwindling. National industry is a major issue. This conversation, or discussion, will bring you close to this issue and present it to you as a plan, objectives, purposes, means and resources. As you read this conversation you will remember the aspirations of the government's plan, the industrial future for which we are preparing everything, the role of the private sector, the assumption of a proper role in the development task and the recurrent repercussions on the oil market and the conditions of the international economy.

AL-YAMAMAH: We are prompted to hold this seminar by the timing of the budget and the timing of the fourth plan as well, since we can call this month (the month of Rajab [March-April] of this year) the month of the plan and the budget. In addition, the conference of Saudi businessmen which was held in Riyadh occurred at the same time as these events. Since we have chosen these points of departure to talk with your excellency about industry and electricity in the kingdom, the first question in reality has become inevitable, and that is, What projects related to electricity does the budget contain for this year, especially since there still are areas in the kingdom which need this material, which is vital and useful to the citizen in the context

of his daily life or the context of his productivity in a number of activities?

His Excellency al-Zamil: In reality, I am very happy to visit AL-YAMAMAH once again, especially since I was honored to attend the inauguration of this venerable building and was happy to see it brimming with activity and my movement, and to participate with you after a generous invitation to shed some light on electricity and industry. As far as the area of electricity in the kingdom goes, there is a large, ambitious program. The kingdom closely resembles a small continent from the standpoint of size. This year emphasis will be on electricity projects in Ha'il, since the program for a large concentrated project exists in Ha'il, and we hope that it will be completed this year in order to bring service to the villages surrounding it. There will also be emphasis on bringing service to the areas surrounding Tabuk. One of the most important projects also is that of Wadi al-Dawasir. This project will cover a beloved area of the nation which has been lacking in electric service for a long period. There were some small plants in this region, and the central project will now replace them. It is expected that its foundation stone will be laid in the next 2 weeks, and we hope that it will be completed in the next 3 years.

Electricity from Gas

AL-YAMAMAH: Will the other projects be completed in the same period (3 years)?

His Excellency al-Zamil: God willing, Ha'il will be finished this year and Tabuk next year. There also is an important project to link the Eastern Province up to the Central Province. This linkup will furnish the Central Province with large amounts of electric power. It is well known that electricity production by means of gas is less costly than the production of electricity by means of diesel or crude oil, and also its production in large amounts through the central plant which is to be established on the east coast will enable the Central Province to obtain power in excess of 1,000 megawatts a year.

AL-YAMAMAH: Is this power which the Central Province will obtain in addition to the power which is present there now?

His Excellency al-Zamil: Yes! For one's information, there now is power in excess of 1,000 megawatts in the Central Province.

AL-YAMAMAH: Since gas is less costly than diesel and crude oil, will there be a tendency to draw all electric power for the Central Province from the Eastern Province?

His Excellency al-Zamil: No, it is not wise or proper to rely totally on connecting lines because ordinary or usual repairs or maintenance might be done on them. No province relies on any other for more than 35 percent of its needs. Therefore, the Central Province will be dependent within these limits and will transmit the rest of course from the stations that exist in Riyadh or al-Qasim. In addition, there are electric projects in the south

which we are trying to complete this year; these are among the most important projects because their effect on the society is great. These include the Mount Fifa Project. His majesty the king has directed attention to these regions and work on a central project which will bring services to all the villages situated in the mountain. In addition to that, there are projects related to the expansion of systems and the performance of expansion for the plants. I believe that the electricity program will be a concentrated one, but what I would like to mention is that the program is still far below our requirements, the ambitions of the government of his majesty the king and the plan of the Ministry of Industry and Electricity.

[Question] Let us ask about an old project which has been presented more than once and, it appears, has been postponed more than once. This in reality would cover a large area which needs electricity. By this I mean the projects of the villages located around the town of al-Ta'if.

His Excellency al-Zamil: Unfortunately, this year we were not able to allocate the necessary amounts for this project. The project of south al-Ta'if or the villages surrounding al-Ta'if is an important one and what had been planned for it was that a large central project would be established costing a very large amount. When we found that there was difficulty in carrying it out, we considered that it should be replaced by another approach, that of constructing new plants in the main towns. This approach will cost less from one standpoint, although it will cost more in terms of marketing, and we will try to proceed in this direction.

AL-YAMAMAH: That is, for example, bolstering the al-Ta'if company and extending lines from al-Ta'if to these villages?

His Excellency al-Zamil: The central project was to include the same united [company] in the Western Province and the main systems were to be expanded. One of the most important things which took place about 4 months ago after Medinah was connected to Jiddah via Mecca was that the Western Province became interconnected, and this is a good achievement.

AL-YAMAMAH: Does this mean that the experiment of uniting the electricity companies has been a success in the kingdom? Are you continuing it?

His Excellency al-Zamil: There is no doubt that the experiment to consolidate the electricity in the kingdom has been a great success and has actually led to the formation of electric systems in the kingdom which are comparable to those that exist in many countries of the advanced world. This experiment has demonstrated its effectiveness, but what has obstructed the takeoff of this experiment is that it inherited an existing situation in the form of companies which had been present with equipment that was present and consequently the united companies then faced difficult tasks. There is no doubt that the experiment of uniting the companies has proved its effectiveness, especially in the main area, which is the east, central and west. We have not seen consolidation in the south, for example, or in the north, because we have found that the areas are spread apart, and they have continued on the basis of the Tabuk, Rafhah and 'Ar'ar electric companies. I believe that the experiment is a good one, but it is still in its infancy.

No to Nuclear Power

AL-YAMAMAH: In your reply a little while ago you pointed out that electricity would be generated in the Eastern Province by means of gas. There are some countries which generate electricity by means of nuclear reactors. Is there a possibility that such an experiment could be a success and have you thought about it?

His Excellency al-Zamil: Many countries have in fact turned to generating power by means of atomic energy. Some countries such as France have come to 50 percent in the generation of electricity by means of nuclear power and other countries have come to 30 to 40 percent. There are other countries which rely on sources of water in the form of dams and so forth. The basic reason which prompted these countries to use sources of water is fuel savings, since they import the fuel from oil and gas exporting countries. As far as the kingdom goes, we have found that it is not feasible at present for us to turn to the use of nuclear power for the generation of electricity for a number of reasons. The main reason is that many of the countries have faced very many difficulties regarding protection of the environment in terms of the dangers of nuclear power, and in addition there is the long period the construction of such plants takes in the United States. Consequently, we have stayed away from this method at the present time, especially since no incentive exists in the West to save on fuel or gas as long as it is present here.

AL-YAMAMAH: It has been noted that the fourth plan and the budget this year and last have been affected to some extent by the disruptions which have occurred in the petroleum market, which has led to the attempt to go along with these circumstances. This was perhaps a factor in limiting the aspirations or conceptions which the government had had of putting electricity in general use in the kingdom. In the light of these circumstances, if they continue, when do you expect the kingdom will be totally covered by electricity?

His Excellency al-Zamil: Today, at a meeting with them, the higher management of the Eastern Electricity [Company] informed me that as far as the Eastern Province went electricity was reaching about 99 percent of the inhabitants and only 1 percent in outlying areas remained. In the Central Province, which includes Riyadh, al-Dawadimi, al-Qasim and Wadi al-Dawasir, there still are some areas which electric service has not properly reached. I believe that there also is a deficiency in the provision of electric service in the south (some areas of the south) and consequently I believe that God willing electric service will be available to about 90 percent of the inhabitants of the kingdom in a regular manner in the course of this plan. There is a program for electric generators. This program is in charge of lending out electric generators to some villages and hamlets in which there are more than 20 homes and it is the citizens who take charge of maintaining and operating the project.

AL-YAMAMAH: How do they take charge of maintaining and operating it?

His Excellency al-Zamil: As far as its operation goes, I believe that that requires a single person, a mechanic, and they assume charge of helping to

pay his salary. However, what happens is that some villages are expanding rapidly and need an additional generator and spare parts.

AL-YAMAMAH: Do you believe that the citizens to whom you give reactors will actually be interested in maintaining them, or will they someday turn into a burden on the electric companies or the Ministry of Industry and Electricity?

His Excellency al-Zamil: Some villages maintain these generators, but in many cases they turn into a burden and they ask for new generators. However, we ourselves are trying rapidly to replace them by hooking up systems. However, that is in accordance with a specific program, through which we are trying to solve the problems of the areas which are far away from service.

AL-YAMAMAH: Especially since it is almost out of the question for the Ministry of Industry and Electricity to be asked to send a maintenance engineer and another operating engineer with each generator. That would be a great burden on it.

His Excellency al-Zamil: Although we have made an arrangement, and about four teams are constantly circulating to help the villages maintain some generators.

The Figures Speak

AL-YAMAMAH: Awhile ago you mentioned some projects on which a beginning would be made this year. Are there any figures on them concerning their total costs?

His Excellency al-Zamil: The costs of the central Ha'il project come to about 1.6 billion riyals, those of the central Tabuk project about 1.2 billion riyals, those of the Wadi al-Dawasir and al-Aflaj project about 700 million riyals and those of Mount Fifa, considered a small project but an important one, about 180 million riyals.

AL-YAMAMAH: How much does the total electric power now available in the kingdom come to?

His Excellency al-Zamil: The total power available now is about 13,000 megawatts. That figure would not mean anything to someone who hears it, but he will realize its dimensions when we compare it with certain countries. To take a country such as South Korea, whose population is 36 million and which has advanced, developed industry, the power they have is about 12,000 megawatts, less than here. The kingdom is also greater than any Arab country. In reality there is great waste and excess in the use of power and much of the power is used for wasteful undeveloped applications in homes. Industrial consumption constitutes less than around 7 percent in the west and center; in the east, the ratio exceeds about 40 percent because of the presence of al-Jubayl and Aramco. There is great hope that electricity uses will decline.

AL-YAMAMAH: This is the justification for the discrepancy in amounts between us and Korea.

His Excellency al-Zamil: On the grounds that per capita consumption is reasonable. Here there is waste in consumption and it is greater than necessary. We do not use any type of heat insulation in our buildings; therefore the average per capita consumption in the kingdom is great. Per capita consumption at some stage of growth in the Eastern Province came approximately to that of Houston, and Houston is one of the most industrially advanced areas in America, although we do not have the same industries. Of course the program which will facilitate stabilization in energy is that of linking up provinces, for instance the linkup which has been made in the Eastern Province and that which has been made in the city of Jiddah. When there is a hookup, additional generating capacity is not needed.

Guidance and Heat Insulation

AL-YAMAMAH: The Ministry of Industry and Electricity has put reliance recently on the matter of raising the tariff of electricity consumption. Its goal is to attempt to limit profligacy in electric consumption. Do you believe that this experiment, in spite of its short life, has started actually to yield fruit?

His Excellency al-Zamil: As you have pointed out, its life is still short (3 months) and consequently it is difficult to pass judgment on it. However, there are some indices which show that indeed a sort of consciousness has started to grow regarding the guidance of consumption. The owners of certain large hotels, for example, have started to study the methods Europe uses to guide energy.

AL-YAMAMAH: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Riyadh has managed to reduce its consumption. This means that there are a number of facilities which can emulate that.

His Excellency al-Zamil: The lofty order to government bodies to guide consumption has also started to yield results. A number of government bodies have started to take measures to reduce their electricity consumption, and I believe that the lofty order to use heat insulation in buildings will have a good effect in this regard.

AL-YAMAMAH: Since the lofty order does not stipulate private homes and since the Ministry of Industry and Electricity is enthusiastic about this project, in view of what it entails on the citizens' behalf, don't you believe that it would be feasible to have coordination between the Ministry of Industry or, for the sake of God, between the electric companies and the municipalities, so that permits will not be given for construction unless it is stipulated in the plan that there will be heat insulation?

His Excellency al-Zamil: This is what has been happening now. We are in contact with the Ministry of Municipalities to study in depth the bill issued by the Cooperation Council countries and the agreement to apply it.

In Europe and America, when the basic goal was to provide energy, the government gave a tax deduction to any citizen who insulated his home in order to save fuel consumption. Their goal was to save energy consumption. As far

SABIC Petrochemical Projects for 1984

Name of Company	Partners	Products	Design Produc- tion Ca- pacity, Thousands of Tons per Year	Estimated Costs in Dollars
Saudi Petrochemicals Company (Sadaf)	Shell Oil	Ethylene	656	3 billion
		Ethylene		
		Dichloride	454	
		Styrene	295	
		Ethanol	281	
		Caustic Soda	277	
The Saudi Yanbu' Petrochemical Company (Yanbat)	Mobil	Ethylene	455	2.3 billion
		Low Density		
		Polyethylene	205	
		High Density		
		Polyethylene	91	
		Ethylene Glycol	220	
The Saudi Methanol Company (al-Razi)	The Group of Japanese Companies	Methanol	600	300 million
The National Methanol Company (Ibn Sina)	Celanese/Texas Eastern	Methanol	650	400 million
The Arab Petrochemical Company (Bitrokimiya)	Owned by SABIC	Ethylene	500	900 million
The Eastern Petrochemical Company (Sharq)	The Group of Japanese Companies	Low Density Polyethylene	130	1.5 billion
			300 [sic]	
The Al-Jubayl Fertilizer Company (Samad)	Taiwan Fertilizer	Urea	500	300
The Saudi Arabian Fertilizer Company (Safco)	Saudi Investors	Urea	330	Unavailable
The National Plastic Company (Ibn Hayyan)	The Korean Laki Group	Vinyl Chloride	300	400 million
		Polyvinyl Chloride	200	

[SABIC Petrochemical Projects for 1984, Continued]

The Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC)	Kuwait Bahrain	Methanol	330	Unavailable
The Saudi European Petrochemical Company (Ibn Zahr)	Neste Oy ENI Epicorp	Butyl Triethyl- methyl	500	Unavailable

as citizens here go, the basic incentive will be savings in the electricity bill. We will of course also work to apply the Gulf bill as soon as possible, and I am certain that there will be a response.

AL-YAMAMAH: Of course heat insulation must accompany the construction of the house.

His Excellency al-Zamil: At the latest meeting of electricity ministers of Cooperation Council countries, a recommendation was adopted to use heat insulation in stages, so that it will start with government buildings first, then after that investment buildings, and the third stage will be in private buildings. Every country will try to encourage the use of it as soon as possible. We in the kingdom have started by raising the matter to his majesty, and his majesty has issued a lofty order to the government bodies to design all new government buildings with the use of heat insulation. In addition, the deputy ministers of electricity in Cooperation Council countries studied a technical bill which states what the materials and circumstances of insulation and so forth are, and this was approved at the latest meeting of the ministers of electricity.

AL-YAMAMAH: By being in the Ministry of Industry and Electricity now that 3 months of that experiment have elapsed, you must have been able to feel the citizens' pulse and the extent to which they have reacted to it. Have you received complaints on it, or has there been a response to it?

His Excellency al-Zamil: By God, most frankly, there has been a full understanding of the tariff in general and the bases on which the tariff was founded, and many people have supported the system of gradual increases. However, I will not keep it a secret from you that when the tariff was printed some observations began to appear on the part of some users whose consumption was large and who had not expected that they would be spending to this extent. In general, most people were not affected by the tariffs, and those who were were limited in number. Last week an intensified media campaign began in which I asked all the united companies to take part under the ministry's supervision to provide indoctrination in all areas of the kingdom. That will last about 6 months.

AL-YAMAMAH: Could we find out about the electricity projects in the fourth 5-year plan?

His Excellency al-Zamil: The plan the Ministry of Industry and Electricity set out in cooperation with the General Electricity Organization and the

united companies is an ambitious one aimed at bringing service to about 90 percent of the inhabitants of the kingdom, on the basis of modernizing service to about 600,000 users, who account for a large percentage. There now are 1.5 million users; that is, service will reach about 2.1 million users. Using the criteria existing in the plan, service will reach about 9 million people at the end of the plan!

AL-YAMAMAH: You have talked, your excellency, about some bad conditions in the electric companies and attempts to change them at present. Would part of the solution be to let some employees go if there is overemployment?

His Excellency al-Zamil: Guidance of spending and raising competence cover a number of areas, among them limiting labor as much as possible, a goal which is carried out in two ways, dispensing with surplus labor if that exists, or having the current labor moved to new projects rather than bringing in additional labor. This will raise the productivity of the individual worker so that he will serve a greater number of users. This program is going on and good savings are being produced by it. At some point the materials stored in warehouses to meet expansion requirements were greater than necessary for the companies, and the companies are working to reduce the storage to the minimum possible level. There are of course other methods which have a relationship to the system of administration and productivity also, and spirit as well.

The Role of the Private Sector

AL-YAMAMAH: In the final year of the third plan and at the beginning of the fourth one, the government started to devote attention to the conditions which had afflicted the oil market and had as a consequence afflicted the Saudi economy. In addition, the government had almost completed the infrastructure in general. Therefore, it considered that the private sector had to assume its role in development from then on. What is the extent of your excellency's optimism on the role the private sector can play in the new mission of development?

His Excellency al-Zamil: The experience the kingdom has gone through this year as far as the budget goes has demonstrated great boldness and an exceptional ability on the part of the political leadership under the directives of his majesty the king to confront actual conditions most decisively and capably. In the current budget, the government itself started with many things and attempted to face the problem directly. Administrative expenses (in the first and second chapters) took a large part of the budget and came to about 35 or 40 percent of it. The share of the important chapters on economic development, which are Chapter Three (maintenance and operation) and Chapter Four (projects), was just 60 percent.

Therefore, big decisions have been taken to reduce spending on the first and second chapters, such as spending on furniture, automobiles and certain employees' allowances. The government is anxious to keep administrative expenditures down and direct the greatest amount of spending to Chapters Three and Four. In addition important decisions have been taken regarding the reduction of some subsidies and the amendment of some prices, such as

electricity tariffs. These sections have set out the beginning of a sound economy and a sound orientation, and have enabled the kingdom to balance its budget. This is a situation which major countries face with difficulty.

Part of this wise vision has included the tendency to reduce the government's role in this area and give the private sector free scope to act as far as possible. The private sector's role in industry was basic in the past, and we expect that the private sector will continue to be active in investing in the area of industry, especially [since] non-productive areas of investment such as real estate have started to shrink.

The figures tell us about the private sector's role. The number of factories has risen from about 470 in 1975 to the point where the number of producing factories now is about 1,700. In addition, investments in industrial projects have increased from about 10 billion riyals in 1975 to about 55 billion riyals in 1984. This, by any criterion, is to be considered a tangible development. I have continued to anticipate that this activity will continue and deepen in the industrial sector in coming years.

AL-YAMAMAH: Some people say that part of this large number of factories cannot be listed under the category of "factories" but that they must be designated "workshops," in terms of volume or quality of production.

His Excellency al-Zamil: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is almost the only country in which "workshops" are not included in its statistics on factories, and consequently this number indeed consists of producing factories (the number of workshops exceeds 9,000 and is outside the statistics on factories). However, some of what has been said concerning these factories entails some truth; some factories have minor status, in terms of quantity or even quality of production. However, this is the pattern of true industrial growth, since the beginnings are small, then they develop and gradually progress from the assembly stage to the stage of manufacturing some parts, and continue with this development. There is no doubt that this number of factories and the amount invested still constitute a beginning, and I believe that it is a good beginning, although it is far short of the ambition and goals which have been outlined for changing the course of the economy, so that it will become basically productive and effective.

I of course exclude the petrochemical industry, a sector which has developed to the point where it has become important and influential not just in the local but also in the international framework. The other industries are still in the process of growing, although their influence has become noticeable, especially when we note that the contribution by sales of domestic industry to gross product for 1983-84 came to more than 20 billion riyals. This amount without a doubt has saved the country hard currency (though it has not been of the magnitude of the presence of imported raw materials and some sums imported by foreign labor), but it has added a value of no less than 7 billion riyals (which is represented by wages, profits and hard currency). In comparing this with ordinary imports, which cost approximately 120 billion riyals, I consider that they still account for almost 17 percent.

We realize that there still is a long road before domestic industry and our emphasis in the fourth plan and the one following it will be on promoting domestic industry and increasing this sector's contribution to domestic product.

AL-YAMAMAH: Through the figures you have mentioned, your excellency the minister, it is plainly clear that these are encouraging figures which prompt one to think seriously about the important role the private sector can play in development. What is your view of the dimensions this role will attain at a later time?

His Excellency al-Zamil: As regards industry, our concentration will be on encouraging factories which exist now to expand their capacity (it is less costly and faster to expand a given project than to establish another new one). This in turn will reduce costs, and we will encourage any new productive addition which any existing industry actually intends to make to its line of production. In another area, there will be an additional tendency to establish new projects along with the establishment of infrastructures they will require, in terms of locations, services and organizational facilities as well, for instance establishing companies to invest in the industrial sector. Therefore the initiative to establish a domestic assembly company was an important one, and will contribute to the establishment of projects of intermediate size and fill an existing vacuum. In addition, the program of economic balance which the Ministry of Defense and Aviation has embraced is to be considered a bold one, and this will lead to the presence of projects which would not have come about had this project not been connected to the shield of peace project. A group of important projects will emerge from that in the course of the next 6 years, especially in the technical area. In addition, there is the establishment of the pharmaceutical company. The government, alone, through imports, consumes close to 700 million riyals in the price of pharmaceuticals, and consequently the existence of a pharmaceutical industry in the kingdom is a very important step, and God willing the existence of such a company will make it possible to establish a number of local pharmaceutical factories. The nucleus of their projects will start in al-Qasim, then will be followed by other steps to establish pharmaceutical plants in other areas of the kingdom. The first project may cover only 10 percent of consumption, because it will produce 100 types of drugs, but the opportunity to expand is present.

Another important thing, as well, is that we have started calling on our commercial partners, such as Japan, the United States of America and Europe, to turn themselves into industrial partners. This program will meet with a great challenge, because they prefer to export to us. Consequently, a long period in which to win them over to it lies before us. Take Japan as an example. Although it is in first place as a commercial partner of the kingdom's, its participation in the private industrial sector is very limited. This arises from its desire to export products to the kingdom and not manufacture them domestically. Our role with them now is to state that the kingdom welcomes the continuation of existing trade, indeed its consolidation, but it is not in Japan's interests in the long run for the situation to continue in this form, because unless they proceed to produce some categories of goods in the kingdom, they might lose their markets over the long run as

a result of the entry of other countries which may decide to produce in the kingdom. When a given company invests in the kingdom, it is defending its markets inside the kingdom. I can repeat that contacts with Japan are continuing in an intensified manner in order to describe the opportunities available, especially in certain technically advanced industries such as the electronic industries, and we will follow the same platform with the United States and Europe. This week 49 Saudi businessmen will start a visit to America, and the basic goal will be to discuss common projects in the private sector.

The Overall Development of Financing in Factories Which Have Been Granted Permits up to 1983, Classified by Activity (Value in Thousands of Riyals)

Activity	1975-76	1983-84	Contribution to Capital [Percent]
Foodstuff and Drink Industry	2,255,263	5,127,777	9.25
Textile and Readymade Clothing Industry	52,190	567,454	1.02
Leather Industry	13,690	101,550	0.18
Wood and Wood Products Industry	231,777	539,310	0.97
Paper, Printing and Publishing Industry	338,198	1,161,506	2.10
Chemical Industry, Including Petroleum, Coal, Rubber and Plastic Chemicals	1,460,172	20,043,171	36.16
China, Porcelain, Tile, Mosaic and Glass Industry	334,800	398,260	0.70
Construction Materials Industry	4,024,650	16,821,636	30.36
Basic, Construction and Engineering Metals Industry	2,159,090	10,114,161	18.26
Other Industries Besides Those Classified Above	120,661	227,346	0.41
Storage	19,738	329,368	0.59
Total	9,899,229	55,431,539	100.00

Percentages: These are the ratio of the financing for each industry to total financing for various industries in the kingdom.

Mediocre Factories

AL-YAMAMAH: To what extent have countries which have common commercial activities been receptive to this sort of subject?

His Excellency al-Zamil: Without a doubt, this program will face challenges and difficulties which could exceed those we faced when we decided to enter the battle of petrochemical industries, because the challenges the basic industries project faced was in the context of the government but this time they are different, since the challenges lie in the confrontation of businessmen in the private sector. Its basic driving force will be the Saudi businessmen. They are the ones who are in contact with Japan, Korea and so forth.

However, we, as an industry ministry, try to create the preliminary link with countries. These countries are concerned with the business of their industry and joint projects serve both parties. The basic incentive which has been made clear to them will be that they will lose their markets unless they respond to this program.

AL-YAMAMAH: This project which you have been so kind to talk about bespeaks your optimism, and will reassure the people about the future of Saudi industries and the future of the development plans. However, returning to the previous question, there are two opinions regarding what could be called mediocre factories. The first holds that they could collapse at any moment because they were established without study with the objective of rapid profit. The other holds that it is necessary that a step be taken by the Ministry of Industry to shift these factories from the situation they are in at present so that they can gain in depth and become consolidated as strong factories.

His Excellency al-Zamil: The important thing as far as this subject goes is that we have clear vision. If we want to apply the rules of the free economy with everything the word means, the Ministry of Industry's bureaucracy cannot direct businessmen to establish factories at a level better than what they have reached today. Thus as long as we have oriented ourselves toward the free economy we will have to accept the presence of some negative elements such as the lack of quality in some goods and the mediocre capacity of management in some factories. However, the free economy will rectify these negative elements over the long run. As long as the owners of this type of factory are not attentive, their projects will be terminated and people who are better and more able to survive will take their place.

AL-YAMAMAH: Perhaps these people's orientation toward rapid profit, or their mediocre management of their factories, arises from a lack of awareness of the lengthy progress of domestic industry. Can't the Ministry of Industry intervene or guide them onto a better road?

His Excellency al-Zamil: There is no doubt that the ministry does intervene in some cases, but we have found that businessmen's decisions and choices for the most part are cogent ones and are good choices, and that they are knowledgeable about the propensities of the consumer and the conditions of

the market. Consequently, the majority of their demands are logical. Therefore, our policy in granting industrial permits is scientific and flexible at the same time. However, we intervene in cases when investors direct themselves toward a type of industry where seven or 10 plants have preceded them and there is enough for the local market.

In addition, we sometimes intervene with advice that some existing industries increase the rate of manufacture, but the ministry, in general, is anxious that its intervention in the course of domestic industries be at the lowest possible level. The negative elements of constant intervention by the ministry are more numerous than the positive ones.

Our Industry and Flooding Policy

AL-YAMAMAH: His Majesty King Fahd has declared that the government will protect Saudi industry, on condition that high quality and a supply sufficient for the local market be attained. However, some businessmen believe that the Ministry of Industry has gone to excess in applying this dictum. They would like to have partial protection, not prohibitions on the import of materials they produce.

His Excellency al-Zamil: I share your view regarding the future of domestic industry. There is no country in the world whose industries are growing in the framework of circumstances similar to those the Saudi market is witnessing. All countries' industries have grown and flourished in the shelter of large protective measures -- Japan's, for instance. Even in some developing countries which have entered the world of industry in force in recent years (Korea, China, Brazil), duties come to 200 percent and sometimes they prohibit imports. Therefore I consider that it is a source of pride for Saudi industry to have been established in the context of fully open markets for which there is no equivalent in the world, even in Europe and America. This modest achievement is a very good thing. Therefore I encourage the establishment of a reasonable type of protection.

The Ministry of Industry, in the light of the policy the government sets, will support any industrial project or product which will be at a reasonable level of quality and volume of production, accounting for 40 to 50 percent of local consumption.

AL-YAMAMAH: In exchange for advising some industrialists not to enter into industries in which self-sufficiency exists, have you presented them with feasible alternatives which the domestic economy requires?

His Excellency al-Zamil: We are trying to come up with ways which will help us direct some investors to useful areas. The basic problem facing us is the shortage of available up-to-date information about the kingdom's imports. The information issued here on that comes from 2 years in the past.

AL-YAMAMAH: Some Saudi industrialists observe that their industry is higher-priced than corresponding imported products of the same quality. What is your excellency's explanation for this phenomenon, and how can one get away from it?

Development in the Number of Factories Receiving Permits up to 1983

Activity	1975-6	1983-4	Percent
Foodstuffs and Drink Industry	73	287	16.08
Textile and Readymade Clothing Industry	10	33	1.85
Leather Industry	2	11	0.62
Wood and Wood Products Industry	25	60	3.36
Paper, Printing and Publishing Industry	46	106	5.94
Chemical Industry, Including Petroleum, Coal, Rubber and Plastic Chemicals	63	259	14.51
China, Porcelain, Tile, Mosaic and Glass Industry	1	5	0.28
Construction Materials Industry	90	486	27.23
Basic, Construction and Engineering Metals Industry	159	500	28.01
Other Industries Besides Those Classified Above	3	20	1.12
Storage	1	18	1.00
Total	473	1,785	100.00

His Excellency al-Zamil: All production in the first 3 years is of a higher cost than imports. This is natural and is happening constantly, because the costs of establishing factories are great, and they need time to reach their operating capacity. Exporters plan to compete and therefore lower their prices when they feel that a domestic factory has started production.

AL-YAMAMAH: Even if that results in their running at a loss?

His Excellency al-Zamil: They take a long-term view of the matter. After they have influenced domestic manufacturers psychologically and in practice, they raise their prices. In the stage of feasibility studies and project planning, manufacturers fall prey to a bind, since they do not allocate enough working capital for a year but set it aside for a period of 3 months. They become cognizant of this point later and proceed to rectify it. We now are trying to indoctrinate industrialists to take "manpower and raw material costs" into consideration for a period of no less than a year with respect to working capital, so that they will be able to absorb the initial shock.

For example, the price of a ton of imported iron was 1,600 riyals before the al-Jubayl complex started, and when the plants started producing the price went down to 1,200 riyals, then 900. The same thing happened in the case of porcelain and cables. That is, if local production survives and exporters feel that they are able to keep going, their prices will start to rise.

On the other hand, as time goes on, the costs of production also start to decline. This is in normal conditions. In abnormal conditions such as the one that obtained in the past 3 years (the great international recession and the attempt of some countries such as Brazil to obtain hard currency by any means) the export of some products to the kingdom at prices which flood [the market] has actually occurred and they have plainly affected some producers.

That is an important subject and it is being studied now in all its details in an attempt to find various suitable solutions for each industry.

AL-YAMAMAH: Some domestic industrialists consider that the period of fitness of some imported materials has been exaggerated, for instance juices, for which a period of fitness of 6 months has been stipulated, while many people believe that the kingdom's climate and the conditions of storage in it will not preserve goods for a period of 6 months. On the other hand, the length of this period has a negative effect on equivalent local products. Therefore, they consider that if this period is reduced, that would involve some protection for local industry.

His Excellency al-Zamil: This leads us to an important, basic matter, the specifications which among other things stipulate the period of fitness. That is one thing that I consider it is necessary to concentrate on in the next 2 years. The actual specifications for imported steel, for instance, are below those the exporters claim it has, from the standpoint of tension or bearing, while the al-Jubayl and Yanbu' factories adhere to the requisite Saudi specifications.

We have started to stimulate efforts with the Saudi Arabian Board of Specifications and Standards and the Consumer Protection [Department] to make this aspect clear and underline it clearly. Japan for instance is a country which claims that it does not protect its industry and gives low customs duties as evidence for that, but its careful commitment to high specifications, which are sometimes a miracle in their industries, has enabled it to keep out many American and European goods. Japan has used high, exact specifications as a means of protection. We in the kingdom do not want to use them as a means of protection; rather, we would like to stress that if the foreign commodities coming into the local market actually correspond to Saudi specifications, their costs will become much higher than they are now. The specifications of Saudi porcelain, for example, are much higher than those of Italian porcelain. What is called second rate comes to the kingdom and is sold as if it were first rate. This is prohibited internationally. Only an expert can tell the difference between the two grades. Therefore, I have asked the Department of Protection and Encouragement in the ministry to carry out intensive coordination with the Saudi Specifications and Standards Board to confirm that foreign products adhere to the Saudi specifications as the domestic products do.

Domestic Industry Has Two Missions!

AL-YAMAMAH: All the above gives a picture which bodes well for the future of Saudi industry, God permitting, but the question is, what is the magnitude of the material (economic) role that is hoped for from this industry?

His Excellency al-Zamil: Let me repeat here that our industrial achievements have started to become apparent, but we are still at the beginning of the road. Industry has a basic role, and our responsibility is to develop its contribution to the domestic economy. Domestic industry's contribution 4 years ago was about 6 percent of gross domestic product. Last year it came to 9 percent of gross product. Our goal is for its contribution to come to 15 percent at the end of the current 5-year plan, and I believe that this goal is ambitious and possible at the same time. This is as a general contribution to the economy. If it is reflected in actual conditions, the real role of industry comes in, and this is its ability to create means for jobs for citizens. We have started to see the early signs of the orientation toward industry on the part of young people (3,000 young Saudis in al-Jubayl and about 2,000 in Yanbu'). Projects such as those for porcelain, cables and so forth have now started to penetrate to the private sector, and consequently the presence of Saudis in them has grown and it has become possible to attract them to work on industrial projects. (In some projects the proportion of Saudi labor has come to 30 percent, while in some it does not exceed 5 percent.) It is necessary that we look at the future -- how is it possible to solve the problem of labor? This solution cannot take place if one does not face the facts. The first of these facts is that the kingdom is limited in population, and consequently it is necessary to employ manpower in it with the utmost possible capability while using the least possible volume of labor. We are relying on mechanization as much as possible.

Another of our goals in the industry sector is that it be a source of hard currency. The circumstances have changed, and this requirement has become important. In the past 2 years, the Saudi balance of payments has been negative. That means an excess of hard currency leaving the kingdom over the hard currency coming in, and consequently the development of local industry has reduced our foreign requirements on the one hand and it is becoming a source of hard currency through exports.

Every million tons of iron and steel we produce will save us 160 million riyals.

There is another vital aspect, which is the agricultural resurgence that is apparent now, as a result of which it is anticipated that positive interaction will take place between agriculture and industry, and food industries will be developed through their reliance on local raw materials rather than imported ones. In addition, when the mining sector is developed and raw materials become available, industry will be enabled to take off in this area and will increase its contribution to the domestic economy.

AL-YAMAMAH: There are people who say that many major Saudi industries rely on petroleum products, while the kingdom is aware that these products are materials which will be depleted someday, so does that mean that a day will come in which we will not be able to find raw materials for these factories?

His Excellency al-Zamil: The petrochemical and fertilizer factories, which are what the question is concerned with, are not the only ones which rely on a material which is becoming depleted. Planning relies on estimating adequate quantities for the use of a number of generations.

I believe that there is no approach like the kingdom's as far as the petrochemical and fertilizer industry goes, because it possesses the greatest reserves of raw materials. Conversely, we find that America, Europe and even Japan have developed these industries but do not have our volume of reserves. The kingdom is the first and the most powerful. Our exploitation of this material is basic; the opposite would be a mistake at the expense of coming generations.

AL-YAMAMAH: There is a negative aspect with which the Saudi petrochemical industry is faced, and that is the West's confrontation with this industry in order to obstruct its marketing there. What precautionary measures has the Ministry of Industry taken to ward off these attacks, which include raising customs duties abroad, and so forth?

His Excellency al-Zamil: I believe that this is a positive aspect in this industry, not a negative one. It proves that the kingdom's approach is sound. If the West believed that this industry was a failure, it would not think of standing up to it by various means.

However, we suppose, in principle, that good will exists, and therefore we make the effort with the Western countries and Japan to show them our position in detail. One basic way of getting to them is their own media. Therefore we have started an organized program to invite senior American, European and Japanese journalists to come and actually learn about the accomplishments. The first experiment occurred in the presence of the editors in chief of about 18 American newspapers, who visited al-Jubayl and after their visit wrote the opposite of what they had been writing previously. Their writings became scientific and objective. In 2 weeks a group of European journalists will come, after the summer season a third group will come, and so on.

The Europeans Were Surprised

AL-YAMAMAH: Excuse me, the media do not seem to be able to resolve the issue. There are foreign companies which try to obtain decrees from legislative organizations in our countries in order to obstruct Saudi industries.

His Excellency al-Zamil: Yes, such attempts exist. Therefore, we have not restricted ourselves to the media, but have tried to come up with a prohibition on the imposition of more duties than those at present on Saudi products, as well as to have the kingdom obtain some benefits in accordance with the system of preferences. Therefore we have adopted a positive defensive position. We have told them that the duties, which are 14 percent, are not acceptable or logical. We import about 20 billion riyals from them a year and most of these imports are totally exempt from duties; the rest come in under duties of no more than 7 percent.

However, there was a blackout on this positive point on the part of the media, which might be portraying us as following the same method they have followed with our products.

The fact is that the situation has evolved and the media there have started to attack negative entities such as the European Common Market and so forth. The Europeans have tried to justify their position by stating that they are dealing with Saudi Arabia as they deal with America and Korea. We have told them, This is true but the Americans take 14 percent from you, Brazil 60 percent and Korea 200 percent, and there are other countries which prohibit imports from you, but we do not take anything from you. That is the difference. Now the Westerners' position has shifted to one of defense, whereas they had been attacking us.

The attempt on their part to cancel these duties or lower them is continuing.

AL-YAMAMAH: How far has the process got so far?

His Excellency al-Zamil: A number of meetings have taken place, the most important of which were two, one in Brussels and the other in Bahrain, between the Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council and the Secretariat General of the European Common Market countries. The goal in the meetings was to carry out exploratory contacts preparatory to entering into detailed negotiations on a number of issues, including Gulf exports to the European market, the conversion of commercial partners to industrial partners as a feasible way of transferring technology, and the issue of energy. The exploratory talks have led to a European understanding of the situation, although their response has not matched this. However, that does not lessen the importance of what has taken place.

AL-YAMAMAH: Are there Gulf countries in which petrochemical industries exist?

His Excellency al-Zamil: In Kuwait there is a fertilizer industry. Bahrain has a joint venture with the kingdom and Kuwait. Qatar has a fertilizer industry and a petrochemical project. The emirates have a fertilizer industry.

AL-YAMAMAH: If the negotiations with the Westerners do not lead to positive results, does the kingdom have means it could use for applying specific forms of pressure?

His Excellency al-Zamil: I believe that the Europeans are practical; they are concerned with their interests, and these negotiations are commercial ones which take time to arrive at solutions. What has been done so far in this regard is very great. They have developed a feeling for the extent of the kingdom's insistence on serious manufacturing and they have started to grasp that.

We will continue to explain the importance of our industry and the need to continue with free trade, lest the issue of duties develop to a situation

which is not in the interests of trade and will not serve the two parties, specifically the European party, since it exports more to us than we export to it.

AL-YAMAMAH: Could we infer from your excellency's statement that the kingdom might deal with them on a reciprocal basis, at least, if they insist on their position?

His Excellency al-Zamil: We do not want to deal with them on a reciprocal basis. Rather, we want them to deal with us as we deal with them. This is a point we insist on. This is what they have sensed. They did not expect such a forceful Gulf position — countries, businessmen and media.

AL-YAMAMAH: It is clear from your conversation that there is Gulf coordination in the face of the European position on Gulf exports. This prompts us to ask about the extent of coordination which has actually taken place in the various industrial and also commercial areas among the Cooperation Council countries.

His Excellency al-Zamil: The coordination which has taken place started a long time ago. Some of it preceded the establishment of the Cooperation Council in the form of individual initiatives, then as collective action which manifested itself through the Gulf Organization for Industrial Investments in Doha; a number of joint ventures among the countries arose from this. It also encouraged joint ventures among businessmen in the council countries. I consider that the new development which I anticipate will have great effects is the establishment of the Gulf Investment Organization by the council countries. A new budget has been allocated to this which I believe exceeds \$2 billion, its headquarters are in Kuwait, and it is managed by a young Saudi with exceptional capabilities. Its basic goal is to invest in the production and services sector in the Cooperation Council countries.

There now is the Gulf Investment Organization. The Gulf Organization for Industrial Investments has rounded out the circle and the situation has evolved into a very excellent picture. Projects are studied and carried out, then their shares are offered to citizens in the Cooperation Council countries. This, God willing, will develop the joint ventures in terms of volume and quality.

Gulf Competition

AL-YAMAMAH: Some people consider that the industrial agreements which have been reached under the aegis of the Cooperation Council have been more in the interests of Gulf citizens than Saudi citizens. They are opening a broad market to Gulf businessmen, namely the Saudi market, while they present Saudi businessmen with competitors which the Saudis are not prepared to compete with to the same extent in their own countries.

His Excellency al-Zamil: There is a unified economic agreement which includes industry, agriculture and trade. Good, proper effects will arise from the application of this important agreement, although it will take time to adapt to it. As regards the industrial area, I believe that what you have

pointed out is correct. Last year Saudi businessmen complained to me about competition with their products from Gulf products. I told them, if the Gulf factories compete with you, I do not believe that you have the ability to manage your own factories. If you complain about competition from Japan or Brazil, I may understand. In the Gulf, though, the factories are smaller than in the kingdom and their costs of production are no less than ours. Therefore you must study the situation. When I went to Bahrain 2 months ago and took part in the Gulf symposium on industrial coordination, the complaint was the opposite, from businessmen in the Gulf who said that Saudi products would inundate their markets and shut down their factories! I raised the Saudi businessmen's complaint to them. In reality, the Gulf exports the last 2 years have been greater than Saudi Arabia's exports to the Cooperation Council countries.

What is happening now is a sort of balance, since the quantities exported from the kingdom have not increased further. About 2 years ago the Saudi factories were very busy with the domestic market and meeting the requirements of large projects. When domestic demand dropped, they then had a capacity which made them look to local or neighboring markets. Therefore, we have now started to notice in fact that there is an active orientation toward moving Saudi products to the Gulf. Saudi participation has grown further, and the Saudi products in the Kuwait exhibition were given an excellent reception. All the quantities exhibited were sold, and they obtained agencies.

We now observe that in the first quarter of the year the private sector's exports, mostly to Cooperation Council countries, came to 312 million. Saudi industrialists have started to find their way. If they export to Bahrain, for example, they will not pay the 10 percent or the other duties. Indeed, it is the Europeans who pay those, or others outside the council countries. Therefore there is no doubt that there will be some executive problems with the economic agreement, especially with individual cases or certain types of industry. However, in the long run I believe that they will be in the interests of all the Cooperation Council countries.

The Decline in Stocks

AL-YAMAMAH: The government has offered stock in the companies it has established, such as SABIC, so that citizens will be partners in these factories' income, in order to support them, morally at least. However, it seems that these stocks have not realized the great ambitions which were in the minds of many people who bought them, since their prices have dropped and some of those people want their capital returned to them! What is your excellency's explanation of that?

His Excellency al-Zamil: SABIC is basically a symbol of the kingdom's determination to invest wealth which had been wasted and to exploit a basic raw material which we had not been putting to use. The government determined to make use of it by itself and to get individuals to take part through stocks. Most modestly, we can record here that SABIC's achievements have exceeded all expectations by any standard. In addition, they have faced the challenge of marketing and succeeded. As regards the drop in the value of the stocks

from 680 to 620 or 600 riyals, investment in SABIC is a long-term matter which one cannot look at over a period of a year or two. It is also necessary to observe that the decline in the value of the stocks has not been restricted to SABIC but has occurred in general form. Even the stocks in the banks, some of which rose to more than 1,000 riyals, have dropped to 500 riyals!

In addition, SABIC is the only company that has placed a maximum of 1,000 shares on per capita ownership in itself. This limit has undoubtedly affected trading in the stocks. Affluent traders are outside the game. This current limit may be lower than it ought to be. Therefore, it is now being studied, and it is likely that this limit will be raised. As for the objective, which is to have a higher limit on ownership, we will keep that because the government is concerned that ownership in SABIC be spread out among citizens. In general, I am trying to conceal a great deal of optimism. Major projects -- methanol and fertilizer -- have started to produce and started to realize profits in the first and second years. Even the Japanese, when we distributed profits of 15 percent for the methanol, expressed their deep satisfaction, because they realized that investing with us was not a risk. Although the iron and steel factory is still facing losses, it has a future which bears every good omen. I advise everyone, especially the small shareholders, to invest in it. In the future it will be one of the most feasible of investments.

Livestock Resources

AL-YAMAMAH: The kingdom has substantial livestock resources while so far as we know there are only nine textile factories, and we import the rest of our requirements. Doesn't a possibility for expansion in this area exist? On the other hand, no industry has yet been established to use the hides of sacrificial animals during the pilgrimage season.

His Excellency al-Zamil: There are factories for making use of hides; preliminary processing activities take place on many of them and they are exported, to Italy and Europe. However, there still is a need to put greater emphasis on the process of using and processing hides. As far as textiles go, there are nine factories which so far rely on imported raw materials, not on livestock resources, and I believe that it is necessary to wait awhile longer until there is a tendency to use the wool available from livestock resources.

AL-YAMAMAH: The emphasis on establishing industries and factories in general is placed in the major towns. Some other countries may have gone through this experience and have encountered many problems from it, most importantly the problems of pollution and population congestion. Doesn't the ministry have the intent of spreading these industries about in other towns in order to lead to a reduction of these two problems on the one hand and, on the other, to the revival of some small towns?

His Excellency al-Zamil: The ministry, as far as possible, is trying to reduce intervention in the decisions which the private sector takes in the area of investment and consequently to reduce influencing the sites they

choose for their industrial projects. Therefore it is natural that these projects should be concentrated in the main towns in order to provide a market, and so forth. Domestic industry is facing strong competition from abroad, and locating itself in remote areas would add to its burdens. However, in recent years we have oriented ourselves toward pursuit of a different method in stimulating investment in areas which are not major. Now we have started to allow the granting of permits [to] many industries for which permits have been suspended if they are established outside Jiddah, Riyadh and al-Dammam, for instance. We are also trying to develop the industrial town in al-Qasim. This has actually started to yield fruit, since the first plant will be established by the new pharmaceutical company in al-Qasim. Perhaps the second factory will emerge in Abha, and so forth. What makes that easier is ease in shipping pharmaceuticals.

Foreign Investment

AL-YAMAMAH: How does your excellency view the participation by Saudi businessmen in industrial activities outside the kingdom when it is in their ability to orient themselves inside the kingdom?

His Excellency al-Zamil: This is an integral part of economic freedom. However, in many instances, it has been proved that investment domestically is much better than investment abroad. People who have invested in Britain, for example, have sustained losses, since the pound sterling was equal to 8 riyals, and it has become 4 riyals today! That also has happened to people who have invested in Spain. The severe drop in hard currency has eliminated all the profits they made. I believe that they will gain awareness from this process and reduce the volume of investments abroad.

AL-YAMAMAH: Since we are now mentioning businessmen, we might mention their conference, which was held in the Eastern Province one time and a second time in Riyadh. This leads us to ask your excellency about the extent of your optimism over the future of these meetings among businessmen as far as the development of industry, the development of trade and the development of agriculture, the new channels supporting the Saudi economy, are concerned.

His Excellency al-Zamil: I have been amazed at the splendid great organization that was provided for the conference of businessmen, especially since the number and actual level of attendance most clearly reflect the businessmen's interest in investment and in bringing out their problems and having an overview of solutions to them through their actual experience with living in their environment.

They were frank with us, and we also for our part were frank with them. We explained to them their weak points and positive features. There is no doubt that thinking about a number of investment projects and agreement over investment projects emerged from this group's meeting, as well as a clear confrontation with the problems. I believe that the level at which the latest meeting manifested itself indeed clearly reflects the great level which our economy has attained.

AL-YAMAMAH: The board of directors of the Saudi Chambers of Industry and Commerce has established specialized national committees to discuss

investment and investment problems in various sectors. These include a national committee for industry. Does cooperation and coordination exist between this committee and the ministry?

His Excellency al-Zamil: There is constant coordination, cooperation and contact. However, we still are not satisfied with the level of this committee's activity, and we believe that it ought to be more active and dynamic in solving the problems of industry and industrialists and recommending solutions to them.

AL-YAMAMAH: There are general complaints from merchants [on the] review of applications for permits for new factories and the proliferation of measures.

His Excellency al-Zamil: Most modestly, without any hesitation, I believe that there is no basis for these complaints, and I challenge any country in the world to show easier or quicker measures for granting permits than the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

AL-YAMAMAH: In addition, SABIC is facing difficulty in marketing its products locally, while it is marketing abroad. Some people accuse Saudi industrialists of not accepting SABIC's products. To what extent is this valid?

His Excellency al-Zamil: The latest figures I saw yesterday deny the existence of any problems in marketing. However, the marketers of SABIC products must act like others, because the local factories were dependent on importers for more than 10 years and became accustomed to dealing with them. The process of dissolving the connection takes time. Young people in SABIC are enthusiastic and want to get 100 percent of the market quickly.

Finally

From its conversation with His Excellency the Minister of Industry and Electricity Eng 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, AL-YAMAMAH summarized a group of conclusions which were indeed important, as far as the country and citizens are concerned.

We became acquainted with the new electricity projects in other areas beside the main towns in the kingdom, projects which are considered to be a new leap forward in the framework of getting electricity to rural areas.

The conversation with his excellency the minister then extended to industry, the form it has taken, the form it is in now, the form it will take in the future, and the visions, conceptions and possibilities under which this great industrial future for our nation will emerge, in its flourishing era replete with bounties, achievements and gains in this fortuitous era.

11887
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SAUDI ARABIA

ELIMINATION OF GOVERNMENT ALLOWANCES RECOMMENDED

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 12 Mar 85 p 9

[Article: "When Will We Resort to Eliminating Some of the Allowances?"]

[Text] The government employment sector still needs to be reviewed and adjusted.

There is a noticeable disparity between the allowances and the salaries, and there is both a psychological and monetary dimension involved in this disparity.

In order for [the government sector's] professional efficiency to be greater, the central agencies must be aware of the negative features in some of the sectors and must be aware concerning how the work atmosphere is in them.

When the matter of employment compensations--especially the allowances which the government sector employees are entitled to--is brought up during everyday discussion, we find that the reaction is discontent and dissatisfaction which is reflected in employees' complaints and disgust about [the ordinances] which have been issued concerning them, whether during the beginning of their period of employment or otherwise.

Furthermore, it is evident that monthly compensations and salaries as well as allowances for yearly or monthly study missions differ greatly from one job to another according to the nature of the job and the field of specialization involved.

This is what impels an employee to look out for his own material interests and be properly compensated for the amount of effort which he expends on the job every day, and the result of this has been that certain sectors have accumulated more employees than others have, and certain agencies have grown more than others in terms of their administrative structure. This impels us to inquire about the job the employment offices do when it comes to achieving proper coordination between the finance offices of the government sectors in order to put a stop to the phenomenon of the ever-increasing number of employees who are leaving jobs in one agency and going to another.

Echo of the Government Edict

Employees in the government sectors know all about the decisions and government edicts concerning the elimination of overtime work with monthly or yearly compensation in jobs which require overtime work, and it is clear how much this psychologically affects the employees. Not only has this affected employees who receive their monthly salaries in accordance with their official appointments to employment in a given organization. Also affected are those employees who have not been able to find a suitable vacancy and who are consequently wage-earners who are employed by the hour.

The pay of these latter employees is determined according to the number of hours they are employed, and this now will have to be considered as one of the main factors expected to lower the level of work desired to be accomplished.

[missing text] the decisions expected at the end of the fiscal year. We must review the budgets decided upon for each commercial, administrative, and social organization. We must review the size of these budgets and how they can be properly utilized in order that each professional organization involved be tangibly rewarded for the daily services which it renders. I believe this has to be accomplished by means of having the finance office in each sector expend the necessary additional effort.

In addition to this, the dimensions of this government edict eliminating overtime compensation and some of the allowances decided upon for some of the social agencies will not affect the ambitions of employees who are continuously attempting to achieve a status commensurate with their new professional aspirations. The reason for this is that it only involves the end of the fiscal year, according to what the edict says, and it also was something that was expected by most of the employees in the government sectors--as was indicated by the complete lack of job openings in some sectors as opposed to others.

Expectations

Many employees have started to link this temporary government edict to other employment-related developments which they may not desire and which do not benefit them. Some of them have begun to expect to be laid off or dismissed in order that a ministry's budget not be exhausted. Others have used the provisions of the government edict as an excuse to be careless and indifferent as long as their efforts are valued according to the hourly wage system.

But when we discuss the matter seriously, we find that this is linked not only to the economy of the fiscal year or something else. This is true because some of the social agencies are in dire and unlimited need of female employees specializing in certain jobs, and if the jobs are not filled, this will be tangibly detrimental to the degree of success of the work accomplished. But a given office concerned is astonished when it receives a reply from a ministry, to which it has submitted a request, to the effect that no job openings are available--not even for hourly wage work.

For this reason we find that the current fiscal decisions, for a long time, have been expected [to result in] certain shocks and blows that will hit newly-hired employees or those employees who are so self-sacrificing that they give up their salaries in order to help balance the budget in their organizations for a given month. However, I do not believe that such people will encounter a positive response and a receptive ear when they demand compensations they are entitled to, even though their sense of professional dignity sometimes prevents them from repeating their requests--since they believe that this is one of their rights which their professional organizations must acknowledge and therefore does not need to be continually pursued.

For the Sake of a Balance

When one makes an accurate comparison between the monthly salaries, the yearly study missions, and the compensations--whatever the reasons for their [amount] are--one finds that there is a tangible and illogical disparity between what some employees receive in comparison to what others receive.

We are not opposed to having an employee receive compensation in accordance with the amount of effort he puts into his work. We are also not opposed to the principle of the study missions, whether they are yearly or monthly. What we notice is the huge disparity between the study missions, compensations, and salaries of the bosses and the subordinates. Of course, the number of years of service, expertise, grade level of one's position, and academic qualifications are among the primary reasons for the existence of differences in the monthly salaries of employees. There is nothing wrong with this when the budget of a given professional sector is large enough so as not to be near going into the red. For this reason it is necessary to have a principle of balance between salaries which is satisfactory and is not detrimental to the rights of certain individuals as opposed to others--especially when we are in a situation which does not allow this--so that this does not lead to the elimination of the salaries and compensations of certain employees as opposed to others.

As long as the decisions now have begun to eliminate hourly wage compensation for employees, what will happen tomorrow? In order that our government offices enjoy a higher level [of accomplishment] and in order that their hard-working employees have their minds put more at ease, there must be sacrifice and cooperation shown by those receiving the high job salaries--until the statistics of our finance offices reach the point where they are appropriately stable.

9468

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SAUDI ARABIA

CIVIL SERVICE HEAD TALKS ABOUT CIVIL SERVICE PROBLEMS

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 10 Mar 85 p 4

[Article: "Important Facts Concerning the Civil Service Are Revealed by the Employment Conference on the Basis of Information Gained Through Field Studies"]

[Text] The government is dealing with the situation from several standpoints.

The director of the Public Civil Service Bureau:
"Administrative reform is linked to the personnel, their [performance] level, and their enthusiasm about their work."

"Selection of personnel for positions should be based on sound and just principles."

"The Civil Service Bureau has, from the beginning, been greatly interested in employing women, and there are now 25,000 female employees."

There are 80,000 job openings, and 120,000 persons are contracting with the government.

Yesterday, at the headquarters of the Public Administration Institute, a discussion began concerning employment and the problems of employment in government agencies. The discussion is being held within the framework of a conference organized by the Public Administration Institute as part of the program to develop the higher levels of administration in the government sectors.

Four studies are being dealt with in the conference. The first study is about employment policies and the application of these policies in Saudi Arabia, and the study was prepared by Mr Ibrahim al-Mulham and Mr Qasim Dirar. The second study concerns the employment of the Saudi work force in the public sector, and was prepared by Mr Muhammad al-(Sahibani). These two studies were discussed yesterday. The third and fourth studies will be

dealt with today. The third study will deal with King Saud University's attempts to compile a list of the members of its faculty and employees through the year 1404 A.H., and this study was prepared by Dr Muhammad al-Matrudi. The topic of the fourth study, which will also be presented and discussed, concerns the problems of employment in Saudia Air Lines, and this study was prepared by Mr 'Umar Babbayn. The last study, which will be presented tomorrow, will concern factors involved after employees are hired and their influence on these employees' efficiency. This final study has been prepared by Mr 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Abd al-Qadir.

The conference began with a speech given by His Excellency Mr Turki Khalid al-Sudayri, director general of the Civil Service Bureau. His speech dealt with the role which the Civil Service Bureau plays in employment, and here is what he said:

"The valuable studies presented to this conference by our colleagues have dealt with all of the basic matters which I could touch upon on this occasion. I will content myself with presenting a few remarks and personal observations relevant to the topic of this conference--remarks and observations which are based on the years of experience which I have had ever since the Civil Service Bureau began the process of hiring people to work for the government.

"First of all, I would like to say that I am in agreement with what was said by Mr Ibrahim al-Mulham and Mr Qasim Dirar in their study which they presented here.

"Administrative reform should begin with the affairs which involve employees. This is, in reality, something which we have been experiencing for years and we are absolutely convinced that this is the right approach. The employees are the basis and focal point of the organizational and administrative structure of both our government agency and all other government agencies. If this organizational and administrative structure is reformed in a given agency, then the agency will be sound regardless of whatever material or other potential and resources are available or not available to this particular agency. If an agency's employees are bad, then the agency itself will be bad. All of the material elements necessary for the job to be done cannot be a substitute for good employees.

"Throughout the course of many years we have seen a big difference in the efficiency of the job performed by the various government agencies in many fields, even though the same fiscal, administrative, and other laws and regulations are applied in all of them. The reason for this is that those responsible in some agencies are doing a good job and those responsible in others are not doing a good job.

"Administrative reform, then, is closely linked to the personnel, their [performance] level, and the earnestness of their efforts to achieve the objectives of their particular government agency. Personnel management is something which directly affects the employees of a given agency, both at

the time that they are selected and throughout their period of employment. The selection process should be based on sound and just principles which involve the effort to select the person who is best prepared and qualified for the job in terms of the knowledge, experience, and personal characteristics and qualities necessary for the person to carry out the job.

"Proper selection of employees, no matter what method is followed in doing so, requires great knowledge of the details of the job for which an employee is being selected and it requires experience in determining all of the tasks that are performed in a given job.

"A person might ask: What is the relationship of personnel selection and qualifications to administrative management and the efficiency level of this management, and why should it be considered the most important element in determining the effectiveness and productivity of a given government agency?

"In my opinion, the connection is a clear one. Competent employees constitute the nucleus or seed which is being planted right now. But this seed will grow in the future and will bear fruit when the time comes for it to do so. Furthermore, the acquisition of even a small number of highly-qualified personnel to work in the management of a particular agency means that there will be a bridgehead by means of which it will be possible to acquire a greater number of new and more qualified personnel in the future. As these personnel get promoted, they will benefit the agency involved and some of them, with time, will take over the leading positions in that agency. This is something that has already happened in a good number of our government offices.

"As far as we of the Civil Service Bureau are concerned, I cannot claim that we have either been successful or unsuccessful in this area. It is up to others to pass judgment concerning this. But I am able to say that we have done all that we could and all that has been required of us by the Employees Law of 1391 A.H. in view of the extremely difficult and complicated circumstances that we have had to deal with. One of the most crucial of these circumstances has been the fact that the Civil Service Bureau has been unable to acquire the qualified personnel necessary to carry out its job. However, during the last few years, we have achieved what could be considered a good and encouraging beginning in this regard. We have, either directly or by means of organized job competitions, hired more than 130,000 employees concerning whom I can assure you that they have met all the requirements and they have all been dealt with equally with regard to the total process of selecting them for employment or allowing them to enter the organized job competitions.

"Of course, there have been a few individual cases in which problems have arisen, and they have been the result of misunderstanding of the regulations. However, these problems were dealt with in timely fashion, and in such a way as to put our minds at rest.

"As I review, in my mind, what has taken place during the last few years in the area of government hiring, I find that there are a number of things worth mentioning, the most important of which are the following:

"1. The past has mostly been characterized by a lack of balance in the demand for job positions. Also, during the past the number of those persons applying for jobs in the government has been noticeably small in comparison with the demand for jobs generally. There has been an almost total lack of demand for jobs in the government organizations most in need of employees such as the Ministry of Health, some of the agencies of the Ministry of Interior, and others. The demand has been primarily for jobs in large companies and public corporations, and after these two categories the demand has been for jobs in government agencies which provide allowances or particular advantages. The next most popular government agencies to work in have been those characterized by the types of jobs which do not involve the hassles of extensive dealing with the public and which involve a relaxed atmosphere. We have dealt with this tendency in the demand for jobs by means of taking a number of steps. They have included limiting in advance the number of persons who can be sent into the private sector--in accordance with decisions made by the Council of Ministers which have empowered the Civil Service Bureau to do this. As far as the public corporations are concerned, the Civil Service Bureau has undertaken several steps to limit the particular advantages which are made available to those employed in them. The latest of these steps was a decision made by the Council of Ministers in 1402 A.H.

"2. There has been a lack of demand for jobs in remote areas. This has been dealt with by a decision issued by the Council of Ministers in 1393 A.H.

"3. Job classifications have been utilized. Three steps in this regard have been taken in the past, and they have enabled us to facilitate the process of determining the terms and conditions of a given job by making this depend on the responsibilities and duties of that particular job. This has consequently facilitated the process of selecting the personnel to fill the jobs and has made this selection process more objective.

"4. From the very beginning, the Civil Service Bureau has been greatly concerned about employing women. New opportunities have been provided for them, although the Civil Service Bureau has not been successful in absorbing the number of women who are demanding jobs. Even so, the number of female government employees has increased from 3,000 to more than 25,000.

"5. There has been an improvement in the process of bringing in non-Saudis to work in our civil service. The most important steps taken in this regard have been the following:

"a. The issuance of the first set of regulations dealing with matters involving contract employees. These regulations were issued by the Higher Committee for Administrative Reform and were ratified by the Council of Ministers, and they now constitute Regulation Number 4333 of 19 Rabi' II 1395 A.H. This

set of regulations was then amplified within the framework of a new set of regulations issued by the Civil Service Council in 1398 A.H.

"b. The establishment of eight offices in other Arab nations and non-Arab nations from which many employees are hired for work in Saudi Arabia. The purpose of establishing these offices was to assure that better employees were hired for work in Saudi Arabia and to spare the efforts which were undertaken by government agencies in this domain by means of the dozens of committees which were being sent abroad.

"c. Limitation of the number of contract employees who are hired to work in administrative and clerk positions in Saudi Arabia. The number of such employees has been reduced to less than 7,000, and these employees include translators and transcribers.

"And finally, the future will require that the Civil Service Bureau come up with new approaches in its hiring policies. We have some concepts about what they will be, but these concepts have not yet been crystallized fully. Undoubtedly the results of the work done by this conference will help us to determine the course which our steps will take. Also, we are sure that there are changes which have taken place which will influence us. All of us will have to take these changes into account when we contemplate our future actions. Already these changes have impelled the Civil Service Bureau to compile its remarks concerning them and to refer them to the higher government authorities. This resulted in the formation of a committee consisting of members from the Ministries of Higher Education, Labor, Finance, and Planning to work together with us to prepare a comprehensive study dealing with these and other matters. Among the most important of these changes and factors of change have been the following:

"1. The tremendous increase in the number of qualified Saudi citizens who are graduates of our universities, technical institutes, and other institutions. The result of this has been that competition for government jobs will be very stiff.

"2. Controlling the process of admission of students in the universities and institutions of higher education in order that more of their graduates study the various fields and specializations which are needed in the private and public sectors.

"3. The achievement of stability in the private sector so that it will become normal once again, even though there are tremendous job opportunities in this sector. [The achievement of this stability in the private sector will] require that our young people show a sincere willingness to work and take a more serious attitude toward vital matters.

"4. Job inflation in some of the government agencies and the lack of optimum distribution of the qualified available labor force among these government agencies. A government committee has been formed from members of the Civil

Service Bureau and the Ministries of Labor, Finance, Planning, and Higher Education in order to make a study of matters relating to this and to submit a comprehensive study concerning them to the higher government authorities.

"5. The utmost importance of making a review of the organizational and administrative situation of the government agencies and changing this situation so that it will be in line with the requirements of the future. The Higher Reform Committee, at the present time, is undertaking the drawing up of a plan to achieve this objective."

The Ideas of the Two Studies

According to information learned from the two studies presented yesterday, the total in appropriations from Item 1 of the Public Budget for government expenditures on civil service employees' compensation and related matters in the year 1404/05 A.H. is 54,920.05 [as published]. It was also learned that the number of government employees in the year 1403/04 A.H. was 191,936 salaried Saudi employees, 106,124 contract employees, and 66,188 wage-earning employees. The number of job openings in the civil service was 105,490, with the total number of existing jobs being 469,738--that is, 22 percent of the total number of jobs was unfilled. This high percentage is an indication of the fact that the Civil Service Bureau has to fill these job openings in the administrative apparatus of the government agencies.

In addition to this, there are about 35,000 employees in government jobs involving various educational and administrative professions which are at variance with the Civil Service Bureau's current policy.

The second study provided clarification regarding the Saudi labor force in the public sector and what is anticipated for this labor force in the future as a result of the next development plan.

In this study, the author discussed the problems which the Civil Service Bureau faces when hiring university graduates. He said that a large percentage of the 6,800 university graduates this year were placed and that a certain number of the others kept on looking for better salaries and particular advantages in their fields of specialization.

He also said that a university graduate does not have the right to be appointed to a Grade 7 position, but that this is possible when a position at this grade level is available.

He went on to say that there are 80,000 jobs which need to be filled and that there are approximately 120,000 contract employees working in the government agencies.

He added that it will be possible to fill 17,000 job slots, currently filled by contract employees, with Saudi employees when they are available to fill these job slots.

He also said that the services provided by the Civil Service Bureau when it comes to creating and filling government jobs will be extended to 1,700 more villages in remote areas.

He emphasized the fact that, as far as the female labor force is concerned, there is a surplus in the [university campus] area both as far as university graduates and non-university graduates are concerned. He said that the problem was that those women seeking jobs were among the least qualified from the university. He mentioned the fact that the Civil Service Bureau had announced 20 job openings and that 400 women applied for these openings. He said that they prefer to work in the headquarters, even though there are opportunities in the Bureau of Prisons, the Ministry of Labor, and the hospitals.

As for the contract employees, he said that the Civil Service Bureau had sent 250 contract employees to jobs. He said that there have only been four cases where jobs have been unavailable in areas for people who wanted to work there.

He added that the development plan is going to produce 60,000 university graduates, and that this would be including 10,000 graduates from foreign study missions, 130,000 graduates in the various liberal arts and humanities fields, 3,500 graduates from colleges of medicine and paramedical studies, 6,500 graduates who have studied to be teachers, and 10,000 graduates in the fields of science, engineering, and agriculture [as published].

This means that, by the end of the fourth 5-year development plan period, it will not be possible to close the gap in the jobs occupied by contract employees by resorting to the available Saudi labor force which will be demanding jobs in the future. These statistics which were quoted by the author of this study were provided by the university.

9468

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SYRIA

SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSES RECENT MEASURES FOR SAVING ENERGY

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 25 Jan 85 p 3

[Article: "An Annual Energy Consumption Increase of 20 Percent in the Area of Electricity and 10 Percent in Oil Products"]

[Text] Recently there has been much talk about the subject of energy conservation and the guidance of energy consumption. This issue began to be presented in a serious fashion in 1973, following the great rise in energy prices, which was also accompanied, concomitantly, by a constant increase in energy consumption locally and internationally.

For example, the rate of increase in electric energy consumption in the country came to 20 percent, while the rate of increase in oil products consumption came to 10 percent. This makes research into the issue of limiting the waste of electric energy and petroleum products consumption and their intelligent consumption a vital matter, not just in the framework of the country but also in all areas of the world. The issue is not just confined to this. Rather, it is necessary to search for new, renewable energy sources in the country and also to exploit shale -- oil rocks which are present in the country in abundance.

This is what the scientific symposium on the conservation of energy and guidance of energy consumption held in Damascus on the 15th and 16th of this month tried to discuss, as well as presenting new ideas which are circulating in this area.

TISHRIN met with Dr Kamal Naji, member of the board of the Union of Syrian Engineers and chairman of the energy committee, who talked about the goals realized by the holding of this symposium. He said,

"This symposium is being held in the framework of a number of specialized symposia which the Engineers' Union has held in the past 2 years on traditional sources of energy, oil and gas and new and renewable sources of energy, solar power, wind power and hydroelectric power.

"Therefore this symposium supplements the previous specialized symposia, and is being held to deal with issues which have a great deal of importance in the country in view of the difficulty of keeping up with the production of energy of various types, along with the rate of increase in consumption, which greatly exceeds other consumption rates since the rate of electric energy consumption in the country, for example, comes to 20 percent.

"Regarding oil consumption, the country is obligated to buy large quantities of certain oil products the country needs for consumption."

Dr Naji continued,

"It was not by chance that some experts were brought in from Hungary and France to enrich this symposium with their countries' experience on this subject. One should bear in mind that we have contacted other bodies, in the Arab and international areas, and have welcomed everyone who contributed to the enrichment of this symposium through his participation in it.

"What did the symposium discuss?

"Basically, through this symposium, we sought to cast light on the causes of the increase in consumption. There are two sides to the issue here, one technical and the other social.

"From the technical standpoint, an important segment of the symposium's lectures and research works were devoted to treatment of the issues of the production, transmission and distribution of electric power and development of its systems and its consumption in industrial and other installations, in addition to treatment of the issues of oil production and products and the issues of thermal insulation for buildings.

"From the social standpoint, a number of lectures addressed themselves to the issue of the intelligent consumption and guidance of these sources of energy, so that they would to a large extent reduce waste, and to the nonbeneficial consumption of energy, in the area of household consumption of electric energy and oil products and in the area of the consumption by the public sector's construction and industrial organizations. The symposium also studied the effect of tariffs on the guidance of energy consumption.

Question What tangible benefits might be derived from this symposium?

Answer The first benefit lies in the participation by this large number of our fellow engineers, experts and specialists in various ministries of the government and public sector bodies. We can see this interaction through the discussions which followed every lecture. The other benefits will come at a subsequent stage, in the wake of this symposium, when recommendations will arise from it which will be put into general application by all the bodies concerned so that benefit may be derived from them and subsequently the goal for which the symposium was held may be realized.

Energy Conservation and Guidance in Industrial Installations

We also met with Dr Samih al-Jabi, assistant professor at the Faculty of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering of Damascus University, where we talked ways of conserving and guiding energy in industrial installations through an integrated study of the status of electricity in various industrial plants and installations.

In the course of the meeting, Dr Jabi made the statement by pointing out:

"The industrial sector is considered the major and primary consumer of energy in the Syrian Arab Republic, since its share comes to 50 percent.

"In our lecture, which dealt with steps and approaches in the area of energy guidance in industrial installations, we based ourselves on an integrated study which we carried out in the Faculty of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering through the vocational labor unit. It had the objective of studying the status of electricity in various important industrial plants and installations." Dr Jabi said, "In the city and governorate of Damascus, integrated statistical form were prepared concerning these installations through this study and we learned many facts which could be relied upon in setting out measures for guiding energy consumption in them.

"It became apparent to us that more than 50 percent of the installations were lacking in the technical personnel in the area of electricity and energy in general which they require in order to conduct emergency and periodic maintenance. We also concluded that more than 46 percent of the installations have electric supply systems which are not at the minimum desired level of operating conditions and that all these installations lack ongoing measurements to determine the real consumption of various forms of energy in them in order to realize the production they manufacture.

"It also became apparent to us that more than 50 percent of these installations have reserve generating groups on which no maintenance is being made in order to confirm their fitness.

"On the basis of these conclusions, we have relied on the following bases to guide energy consumption in these installations:

"The preparation of energy balances for each installation in isolation and each producer in the installation under consideration separately so that we will be able to set out a descriptive schedule showing energy consumption in various forms for the manufacture of this product. By ascertaining these balances, we will be able to intervene directly and scientifically to reduce energy consumption while preserving the quality of these industrial installations' products.

"The reduction of primary materials used in a given product by using developed technology to guarantee production.

"The use of excessive primary materials from the manufacture of a given product in order to limit waste of primary materials.

"The use of byproducts and waste materials as a secondary source of energy in the same installation or other ones.

"The renovation of electric supply systems in industrial plants and installations, with the objective of reducing maintenance work in them and providing a minimum of industrial safety conditions.

"Reduction of the operation of equipment and machinery while empty to a minimum. This requires a review of the old and new lines of technology with the objective of introducing control and automatic command into them.

"Reviewing the equipment and machinery used on technological lines which were relied on in the period when the energy crisis had not become aggravated and whose capacities were thus much above the desired level."

We also met with Eng 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Hamawi, who talked about theories of energy conservation and energy consumption guidance.

He stated, "The energy consumed in Syria is covered by oil products." Eng Hamawi said, "If we refer to these percentages, we will observe that the housing sector accounts for 19.2 percent of the entire country's total oil consumption."

"This consumption was 100 kilograms per capita per year in 1953. It is expected that it will reach 800 kilograms in 1990."

"This is from the standpoint of the volume of consumption. From the standpoint of the per capita prices which have resulted, these increased by 932 percent between 1963 and 1982."

"How can we conserve this energy?"

"In brief, we can say that it is possible to make savings of 25 to 30 percent in the energy consumed in homes if good insulation is provided for these homes. 1973 was a decisive year as regards the issue of energy, since most countries became aware of this issue and introduced strict legislation to guarantee energy conservation in homes."

"Meanwhile, Construction Statute 350/MT for the year 1978, that is, following the energy crisis in 1973, was issued for the city of Damascus. However, this statute constitutes a retreat regarding the specifications which must be met on the subject of the necessary thicknesses of exterior walls, since the statute issued in 1953 paid attention to many requirements for conserving energy."

What mistakes are committed in the area of energy conservation?

Eng Hamawi replied,

"It is possible to observe many of the grievous mistakes we commit in the local context in the area of energy conservation. The treatment of traffic bottlenecks in roads will save energy consumed in cars and means of transportation, and the changing of traffic signals is a vital matter."

"There are many modern techniques which conserve energy, such as the use of traffic signals connected to the density of the traffic behind them."

"It is possible also to save energy by using what is called a 'green speed,' which is based on the principle of not shutting signals off to drivers as long as they are maintaining that speed."

Eng Hamawi also pointed out that centers for the distribution of automotive fuels were remote, since the public sector's "gas stations" are sometimes 25 kilometers from the centers of cities, which entails an obvious waste.

This is aside from the severe waste in our official departments, where windows are opened to change temperatures in rooms or electric heaters are used and attention is not given to the maintenance of broken windows. In addition, there are entities which pursue their activity through galleries, which open directly into the outside air, and thus lose a large portion of their heat.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Eng Hamawi referred to the need to have comprehensive social awareness of the issue of waste and the entire social pyramid and to have all resources mobilized for facing the challenges to which the country is being exposed.

11887

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SYRIA

VARIOUS FOOD PROCESSING VENTURES IN PAST YEAR REVIEWED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 25 Jan 85 p 4

[Article by Muhammad Salihah: "The Course of Self-Sufficiency in Food during 1984"]

[Text] Where will we begin, in talking about one of the many important aspects of domestic construction in 1984? Indeed, how can we begin?

That is because the year that has elapsed was filled with numerous events and various activities which had an obvious effect on the lives of our citizens and on building the base of self-sufficiency in food and supplies in general.

That year ended with the inauguration of eight automated ovens at one stroke, in the Governorate of Idlib, shifting the governorate from a condition where it needed and looked for bread to a state of self-sufficiency and coverage of the need. This governorate has started working to accommodate developments in bread requirements for the next 10 or 15 years, especially since every automated bakery existing now in the Governorate of Idlib has the capacity for a new line of production, which means that there is no problem of buildings or space. It is up to the local shops manufacturing the automated bakeries to manufacture the equipment for the new lines in the coming period to accommodate every development at the specific time, that is, to absorb every increase in consumption and provide the requirements for it before they actually arise.

This is in the context of Idlib, one of the country's governorates, and in the context of one commodity; we are not addressing ourselves to other commodities there. The governorate's various activities, on the level of the people and at the official level, have affirmed that the supply situation in the governorate is very good and that supplies are most available to the public in actual conditions.

This is in the Governorate of Idlib, which, at the time of the visit of the prime minister and the party and government delegation accompanying him, expressed this fact and its high appreciation of the attention given by the president and commander, Hafiz al-Asad, to the citizens' causes, in particular their self-sufficiency in food and supply commodities.

If this is the situation in the Governorate of Idlib, what is the situation in the other ones?

No one has alleged or will allege that the supply commodity and food situation in the country has not suffered from numerous difficulties, because that is linked to a number of interconnected details, not all of which are equal in terms of activity, the execution of plans or followup. Without accusing anyone, the drought which afflicted the country this year nonetheless created numerous difficulties regarding the provision of agricultural materials in particular, alongside the other difficulties in the secondary areas of production.

However, this point, in spite of its importance, should not divert one's vision or detract from the importance of the accomplishments which have been realized, in spite of all circumstances in the supply and domestic trade sector.

The figure bearing on this sector's construction work exceeded 700 million Syrian pounds. This, in the governorates of the country, was transformed into bakeries, storage and cooling units, mills and increased storage areas of grain and Grain Organization silos and consumer halls, wholesale vegetable centers, sales booths and much more besides.

However, the great number we mentioned will remain a number, if we do not describe it and learn how it is broken down and transformed from cash to installations and edifices in the towns, areas and villages.

Before we get into details, we should mention the broad outlines of the general supply and domestic trade activity directives in the past year, 1984.

These outlines can be summarized by the following tasks:

The provision of consumer goods throughout the country.

The marketing of agricultural products in the form of grain and completion of their coverage through imports.

The marketing of basic categories of fruit and vegetables and export of the surplus.

The marketing of meat to cover requirements, and export of the surplus.

The marketing of surplus eggs and chicken and their storage on the premises of the General Cooling Company, for provision to the markets as needed.

The marketing of public sector products and imports of various types in the form of foodstuffs, clothing, construction, household appliances and so forth.

Positive intervention in the market alongside the private sector in the area of retail trade in order to achieve stability and balance in the prices of all commodities.

The realization of self-sufficiency in food for the citizens and full coverage of the country's requirements.

The execution of the government's price policy with respect to the stabilization of basic material and commodity prices.

The setting of prices for products, goods and services on economic and social grounds which will help encourage production and guide consumption.

Reinforcement of supply oversight agencies throughout the country in full and intensification of supply oversight.

The completion of technical agencies and laboratory equipment for revealing fraud.

Followup of the supply situation in the country.

These are the broad outlines of the plan and the Ministry of Supply and Domestic Trade's tasks during 1984.

How was the work performed?

We mentioned above that the volume of the work carried out in the ministry's plan for the past year came to more than 700 million Syrian pounds. How did this figure assume concrete form in the framework of actual conditions?

We can mention or enumerate some of the projects which have been carried out here. In the framework of the Grain Trade and Processing Organization, the Latakia mill, with a capacity of 250 tons of wheat per day, the Mahradah silo, the Tall Barrak silo and five storehouses in al-Malikiyah, 47, Mabrukah, Tall Tamar and Ra's al-'Ayn were built.

A start was also made on the construction of the new mill projects in Damascus, Aleppo, Jabalah, Idlib, Talkalakh and Hamah in addition to a mill with a capacity of 100 tons of wheat in the Dayr Hafir area.

In the framework of the General Bakery Company, 19 bakeries have been constructed containing 25 lines to produce bread; these were erected in Damascus International Exhibition City, New 'Artuz, Mahradah, al-Suqayliyah, Sawran, 'Ayn al-'Arab, Jarabulus, al-Raqqah, al-Hasakah, the Governorate of Tartus, (five outlets), the Governorate of Idlib (five outlets), and the Governorate of Hamah (nine outlets), as well as a mobile center for serving rural areas, 27 outlets in the Governorate of Aleppo, 10 outlets in the governorate of Damascus, and 10 outlets and a mobile center for serving rural areas, 27 outlets in the Governorate of Aleppo, 10 outlets in the governorate of Damascus, and 10 outlets and a mobile center for serving rural areas in the Governorate of Hums.

There are gas sales centers in the foodstuff distribution centers, 10 outlets in the Governorate of Dayr al-Zawr, 12 outlets in the Governorate of Dar'a, five outlets in the city of Damascus, four outlets in the Governorate of Latakia, the consumer center and a people's hall in al-Suwayda' and nine outlets in the Governorate of al-Raqqah. The construction of 10 new outlets has started.

Following this review we can enter into the context of the plan and the tasks whose general outlines we have mentioned.

It is necessary to point out first of all that the figure on domestic trade activities in 1984 is close to 11 billion Syrian pounds — a very large figure which at the same time means many things.

Let us try to shed some light on this.

Grain Trade and Processing

The value of domestic purchases came to 170 million Syrian pounds and foreign purchases 712 million Syrian pounds. The organization's budget surplus came to about 123 million Syrian pounds. It managed to carry out its investment plan in accordance with the material and financial program set out for it. It has put the Latakia mill into operation with a capacity of 250 tons of wheat a day; this is one of 11 mills whose construction was completed in the 5-year plan, with a capacity of 3,000 tons of wheat a day. A start was also made in the production of 11 new mills with a capacity of 2,600 tons of wheat a day, grain silos were constructed and a number of storehouses and a laboratory for grain and flour analyses were built.

The Mills

1,373,021 tons of wheat were milled, for a completion ratio of 98 percent.

The flour of various types produced came to 1,050,316 tons, for a ratio of 99.8 percent.

The volumes of raw hummus lentils processed came to 25,500 tons, and the company realized a budget surplus of close to 7,200 Syrian pounds.

Automated and Reserve Bakeries

The number of automated bakery installations at the end of 1984, with all necessary facilities came to 122 buildings, in which 193 lines of production were installed. The number of automated and stone ovens in reserve bakeries came to 87. The productive capacity of the automated and reserve bakeries was estimated at 500,000 tons a year at the end of the past year.

With the completion of modifications to the previous imported lines through local apparatuses with better specifications as a result of technical expertise founded on local processing, the productive capacity of the existing lines will exceed 600,000 tons a year. When the new lines which will be manufactured locally are put into operation, this capacity will rise to 800,000 tons by the end of the fifth 5-year plan next year.

This is in the context of grain, flour and bread; what about the other aspects of supplies and domestic trade?

The Consumer Organization

The organization's sales at the end of last year came to 2,175,000,000 Syrian pounds, in spite of the pressure from imports, and the organization realized a budget surplus which came to close to 75 million Syrian pounds.

The organization built seven storehouses, adding storage capacity of about 20,500 square meters.

The Retail Company

Its sales came to close to 880 million Syrian pounds and its budget surplus to about 10 million Syrian pounds. In 1984, it built and opened 100 sales outlets, three of which are large complexes, in al-Hasakah, al-Suwayda' and al-Raqqah. Thus the number of sales outlets belonging to the company comes to 800, consisting of complexes, model halls and centers.

The Shoe Company

Its sales came to 24.5 million Syrian pounds and its budget surplus came to 647,000 Syrian pounds.

The Meat Company

Its sales came to 487 million Syrian pounds, and the budget surplus came to 9 million Syrian pounds. It is operating in the context of the General Consumer Organization. A new branch was created for it in Latakia which was assigned to distribute meat to the whole city. It has played an important role in fattening sheep and exporting surplus sheep.

In the context of agricultural food products and their preservation, the following was realized:

Storage and Cooling

The company's total revenues from storage in its possession during 1984 came to 20,076,000 Syrian pounds, revenues from cooling transportation were 2,928,000 Syrian pounds and revenues from ice were 273,000 Syrian pounds.

The company has entered a new field, that of shops. The revenues from this came to 6,293,000 Syrian pounds. Thus the company's total revenues for last year came to 29.57 Syrian pounds, and the budget surplus came to 9,105,000 Syrian pounds.

The company carried out its commercial plan in the area of surplus egg and chicken marketing and its investment plan in the execution of the five storage and cooling units. It put the Suwayda' storage unit in operation in a record construction period of 11 and a half months, with a capacity of 20,000 square meters.

Vegetables and Fruit

The company realized domestic sales of 472 million Syrian pounds and exports totalling 17 million Syrian pounds.

Its budget surplus came to approximately 22 million Syrian pounds.

The company constructed new storage areas totalling 45,000 square meters, built 60 new centers and 25 consumer sales rooms, opened sorting, storage and packaging centers in the Governorates of Damascus, Hums, Hamah, Aleppo and Latakia and inaugurated the netting bag and packaging machinery factory.

The Grain Silos

Total receipts of grain in silos up to the end of last year came to 1,963 tons, while production of the two fodder plants came to 120,000 tons and the quantity of seeds handled to 66,000 tons. A quantity of 7,200 tons of garbanzo beans was upgraded and it is expected that a budget surplus of 4.3 million Syrian pounds will be realized.

The company started to carry out the project to expand the silos existing in its possession with an additional capacity of 350,000 tons. Initial work was done on the construction of two new silos, in Damascus and Aleppo, with a capacity of 200,000 tons.

The Development Organization

The organization's sales by the end of the year came to about 3,617,000,000 Syrian pounds. Its budget surplus is estimated at 61,208,000 Syrian pounds. The additional storage capacity constructed last year came to 28,000 square meters in the form of roofed areas and 19,000 square meters in the form of open areas.

The Silk Organization

Its sales last year came to 280 million Syrian pounds and it built three storehouses 9,000 square meters in area and six consumer sales halls.

Finally, there remains the consumer cooperative sector, which the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade is supervising and to which it offers assistance in cash and in kind.

This sector's sales came to 219 million Syrian pounds and its net surplus to 4 million Syrian pounds. The ministry is building two large consumer complexes on behalf of consumer cooperation, in Damascus and Aleppo. This in brief is what was done in the sector of supply and domestic trade and the accomplishments of the Ministry of Supply in 1984 in execution of the directives and direct interest of the president and commander Hafiz al-Asad and the stipulations of the conferences of the party and the government plan.

What has been achieved in this sector is very great. Difficulties and problems here and there were not able to affect its course; the effort was excellent and the sacrifices transcended the resources.

11887

CSO: 4404/300

13 June 1985

SYRIA

FOOD INDUSTRIES MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 11 Mar 85 p 4

[Article by Shadiyah al-Barudi: "Important Development in the Food Industry Sector During the March Revolution's March"]

[Text] Our country embarked on a new political and economic stage following the glorious 8 March revolution. The national economic structure has undergone significant changes according to the ownership of production, distribution and means of distribution.

The 5-year plan, as of the beginning of the seventies, began supporting the industrial public sector through expansion, modernization and quality development and the raising of employee abilities and efficiency, tying them to the need of the country's economic sectors through increased production to meet growing demands in the domestic or foreign market while limiting the importation of some commodities, replacing them with local production.

Development of Food Industry Sector

The food industry sector has developed considerably and tangibly. This development is represented in the creation of new production companies and the development of existing ones through modernization and retooling operations. These projects had a positive effect on increased production and the introduction of new products to meet consumer needs with high quality and at economic prices.

Food Industry Companies

The food industry sector has the following companies: the Syrian Company for Vegetable Oil, Aleppo; the Syrian Arab Soap and Vegetable Oils Company, Damascus; the General Vegetable Oils Company, Hamah; the al-Sharq Food Products Company, Aleppo; the Syrian Cookies and Chocolate Company, Damascus; the New Preserves and Agricultural Products Company, Damascus; the Sahil Preserves Company, Jabalah; the Syrian Preserves Company, Muzayrib; the General Preserves Company, Idlib; the al-Jazirah Preserves and Agricultural Products Company; the Euphrates Preserves and Agricultural Products Company; the Syrian Arab Dairy Company, Damascus; the General Dairy Company, Hims; the Arab Grape Processing Company, al-Suwaydah; the Arab Peanut Marketing and Processing Company, Tartus;

the Yarmuk Macaroni Processing Company, Dar'a; the Barada Beer Manufacturing Company, Damascus; and the General Vegetable and Onion Dehydration Company, al-Salmiyah.

Factories Built During the Revolution

The companies that were created are: Al-Sahil Preserves Company, the Yarmuk Macaroni Company, the Barada Beer Company, the General Preserves Company in Idlib, the al-Jazirah Preserves and Agricultural Products Company, the metal can factory at the New Preserves Company, the metal can factory at the Idlib Preserves Company, the canned milk factory at the Damascus Dairy Company, a peanut roasting line in Tartus, the chocolate line at al-Sharq Company in Aleppo, an oil purification line at the Aleppo Oil Company, a line to remove odor from the oils at the Aleppo Oil Company and a tomato processing line in Muzayrib.

Development of Most Important Economic Indicators in Food Industry Sector

The economic indicators developed positively and at high rates. The most important of these indicators for the 1980-1984 period are:

--Production

The overall production value of the public food companies totalled 411.5 million Syrian pounds in 1980, 557.7 million in 1981, 709 million in 1982, and 829.5 million in 1983. In 1984, the value of production was 831.236 million Syrian pounds. It is noted that the value of production registered a significant growth during the last few years, contrary to the efforts made by those who work in this important food sector.

--Exports

The establishment was able to meet the people's needs for various foodstuffs that used to be imported, then moved on to the exporting stage with regard to some commodities. The most important of these are: dried onions, peanuts, tomato paste, apricot jam, olives and assorted preserves.

The value of exports grew from 24.6 million in 1980 to 30 million in 1981 and 51.790 million in 1984.

The food industry sector realized profits although the prices of its products were only slightly higher than the cost price.

Profits grew from 12.6 million in 1980 to 42.7 million in 1981 and 99.481 million in 1984.

Projects to Be Implemented This Year

--Completing the expansion of the al-Suwaydah Grape Company to double its capacity in order to handle 5,000 more tons, at a cost of 17 million pounds.

--Expanding the Yarmuk Macaroni Company in Dar'a by building two new lines, one for macaroni and the other for vermicelli, along the pattern of the two existing lines, at a cost of 8.5 million pounds. The contract has been submitted for approval. The letter of credit will be opened in the second quarter and the machinery imported in the second half of the year.

--Onion line mechanization: New machinery will be installed to overcome the problem of cutting up onions by hand and the difficulty of finding transient labor and to reduce waste. It costs 5 million pounds. Bids are under study right now and implementation is expected to be in the third quarter.

--A dairy plant in Aleppo: Bidding on machinery was announced at the beginning of this year and the estimated cost is about 42 million pounds. Importation is expected to start in the third quarter.

--A dairy plant in al-Hasakah: The project has been announced and the estimated cost is 42 million pounds. Importation is expected to start in the third quarter.

--A "solubles" line at the Aleppo Oil Company, by building two units for extracting the oil remaining in the press, at a cost of 18 million pounds. Awaiting approval to open a letter of credit and the first unit is expected to be finished this year.

--Replacement of the soft drinks line at the Buqayn and al-Duraykish factories. Specifications and terms will be drawn up and bids invited in the first quarter, with delivery to be in the third quarter.

--Replacement of the tomato line in the Damascus Preserves Company, at a cost of 3.5 million pounds. The project is expected to be finished in the third quarter of this year.

--Construction of a new line at the Damascus Preserves Company, at a cost of 11 million pounds. The contract has been arranged and machinery will be imported and installed on 30 September 1985.

--The Hamah Oil Company is scheduled for expansion to raise its capacity from 20,000 tons to 100,000 tons of seed. Bids for machinery will be invited in the third quarter of this year.

This is in addition to replacement, modernization and development projects in existing companies in order to improve and upgrade them.

12502

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SYRIA

INCREASED GDP REFLECTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 11 Mar 85 p 4

[Article by Dr Malik Akhras: "Real Investments Grew 33 Times During Revolution's Years and 19 Times During Rectification Years"]

[Excerpts] The establishment of balance economic development was one of the most important economic and social development strategies in the Syrian Arab region. This required a re-examination of the structure of social and economic relations so as to rebuild them in accordance with requirements that serve such a strategy. The fact is, through our study of developments in the economic sectors which constitute the national economy, we can perceive a great change in these sectors, both qualitatively and quantitatively. Therefore, it is useful, while studying the main features of the development of the most important economic changes in the Syrian Arab region, to review, albeit concisely, the development of the most important of these changes. By this, we mean the development of each of: the gross domestic product [GDP], the net domestic product; the capital formation--real investments; and the development of the average per capita share of the GDP.

Based on Current Prices

The GDP in 1963 totalled 4,425 million Syrian pounds and, in 1970 it rose to 6,848 million pounds, an increase of 55 percent. In 1980, it reached 51,799 million, an increase of 1,071 percent over the 1963 rate and 656 percent over 1970. This amount is expected to grow in 1983 to 81,447 million, a 1,741 percent increase over 1963.

In other words, it can be said that the GDP has increased tenfold during 1970-1984.

Based on Economic Sectors Contribution

The production sectors had the largest share of contribution to the GDP. In 1980 they contributed 44 percent, a rate which is expected to hit 44 percent [as published] in 1984.

The agricultural sector's contribution to the GDP dropped from 20 percent in 1980 to 19 percent in 1984. The contribution of the industrial sector remained at 18 percent.

It is noted, from the comparative Table II that shows the GDP product formation by sectors according to current prices, that there is a clearer balance in the size of the contributions of each of the industrial and agricultural sectors to the GDP formation, as compared to their contribution to the gross product formation.

Development of Net Product

The net product is a direct reflection of the GDP in view of the fact that every increase that occurs in the latter will necessarily reflect on this indicator after excluding the amortization of the fixed capital from the GDP.

Table III shows the growth of the net domestic product which is closely associated with the GDP. We noted that:

The size of the net domestic product in 1963 was 4,249 million Syrian pounds, at current prices, and reached 6,543 million in 1970, a 54 percent increase. In 1980, it was 50,356 million Syrian pounds, a 1,085 percent increase over 1963 and 670 percent increase over 1970. The net domestic product is expected to be 78,080 million in 1984, a 1,761 percent increase over 1963. In other words, it can be said that the net domestic product grew 16 times during the 20 years of the revolution.

The industrial sector occupies first place with respect to its contribution to the net domestic product formation. Its contribution rose from 830 million pounds in 1963 to 1,420 million in 1970 and 8,371 million in 1980. It is expected to grow to 13,941 million in 1983.

The industrial sector is followed in importance by the commercial sector, which contributed 20,340 million Syrian pounds in 1984, then the agricultural sector whose share was 15,514 million, and the government services sector with a total of 12,008 million.

The commercial sector witnessed significant growth during the 1963-1984 period. In 1963, it represented 923 million Syrian pounds, or a rate of 10 percent of the net domestic product, an amount that grew to 1,365 million in 1970 and 12,566 million in 1980, or about 25 percent of the net domestic product of that year. It is expected to grow to 20,340 million in 1983, or 26 percent.

Growth of Per Capita Share of GDP

The Fifth 5-Year Plan aimed to increase the per capita share of the net domestic product by an average of 3.8 percent annually, an objective expected to be achieved in 1984 when the per capita share of the GDP will be 8,199 Syrian pounds at current prices and 3,279 pounds at 1975 fixed prices.

Data contained in Table IV shows that the average per capita share of the GDP rose from 886 Syrian pounds in 1963 to 1,094 pounds in 1970, 5,769 in 1980 and 8,199 pounds in 1984.

In other words, the average per capita income during the 1963-1984 period rose about eight times at current prices and twice at fixed prices.

Development of Capital Formation

Capital formation represents the nation's production ability and actually represents the state's total real investments during a specific period of time.

The Syrian Arab region, like many other developing countries, used to suffer from a severe deficit in the average capital formation. It is noted, however, that during the 1963-1984 period, it witnessed considerably growth.

Elaborating more, whereas the size of capital formation was about 529 million Syrian pounds in 1963, it jumped to 897 million in 1970, a 70 percent increase over 1963, and 5,156 million in 1975, following 5 years of the rectification movement, a 475 percent increase over 1970 and 875 percent over 1963.

With the implementation of the Fourth 5-Year Plan, the size of capital formation in 1980 grew to 14,116 million Syrian pounds, a 1,474 percent increase over 1970 and 2,568 percent over 1963. By the end of 1984, this amount is expected to grow to 19,227 million, a 3,309 percent increase over 1963.

In other words, the capital formation in the Syrian Arab region grew about 23 times during the 1963-1984 period and the great development in this economic variant occurred after 1970 when it grew about 19 times during the 1970-1984 period.

Distribution of Gross Fixed Capital Formation According to Ownership

Fixed capital formation represents a key element of capital formation, for it is known that capital formation is divided into two parts: private and public, and into two elements: fixed capital formation; and variation in the stock of raw, semi-manufactured and manufactured materials.

Fixed capital formation may be classified in national economic calculations into five main elements, which are:

- Building: represents expenditures for modern buildings and installations. This includes all expenses necessary to build usable structures to meet planned needs in accordance with prevalent social conditions. It is usually composed of two parts: residential and non-residential.
- Construction: it includes expenditures for construction other than buildings, such as roads, bridges, etc.
- Machinery, equipment and material.
- Means of transportation.
- Other assets: all expenditures for assets not included in the aforementioned calculations.

Table I

Gross Product According to Sectors at Current Prices, 1963-1984
(in millions of Syrian pounds)

Sectors	1963	1970	1975	1980	1982	1983 Initial	1984 Proj.
Agriculture	1191	1382	3705	10,383	13,849	15,401	15,828
Industry/Mining	903	1560	4174	9006	14,496	14,561	14,873
Building/Construction	114	201	960	3555	4313	4875	5250
Wholesale/Retail Trade	943	1396	4603	13,700	16,831	19,253	20,605
Transportation, Comm. and Storage	363	733	2407	3557	5506	5875	6480
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	445	731	1481	3267	4337	4131	4463
Social, Personal Services	62	116	279	928	1408	1502	1653
Government Services	394	711	3083	8369	10,934	11,453	12,212
Non-Profit Agencies	10	18	19	34	43	47	52
Total	4425	6848	20,711	51,799	71,727	77,098	81,446

Table II

Gross Product Formation According to Sectors at Current Prices, 1963-1984
(in millions of Syrian pounds)

Sectors	1963	1970	1975	1980	1982	1983 Initial	1984 Proj.
Agriculture	27	20	18	20	19	20	20
Industry/Mining	20	23	20	18	20	19	18
Building/Construction	3	3	5	7	6	6	6
Wholesale/Retail Trade	21	20	22	24	24	25	25
Transportation, Comm. and Storage	8	11	12	7	8	8	8
(Continued)							

Table II Continued	1963	1970	1975	1980	1982	1983 Initial	1984 Proj.
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	10	11	7	6	6	5	6
Social, Personal and Government Services and Non-Profit Agencies	11	12	16	18	17	17	17
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table III

Net Product According to Sectors at Current Prices, 1963-1984
(in millions of Syrian pounds)

Sectors	1963	1970	1975	1980	1982	1983 Initial	1984 Proj.
Agriculture	1169	1345	3628	10,138	13,573	15,095	15,514
Industry/Mining	830	1420	3959	8371	13,612	13,649	13,941
Building/Construction	111	195	946	3526	4275	4832	5233
Wholesale/Retail Trade	923	1365	4533	12,556	16,635	19,005	20,340
Transportation, Comm. and Storage	325	675	2280	3326	5112	5455	6017
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	436	718	1452	3209	4237	4045	4370
Social and Personal Services	58	110	266	899	1367	1458	1605
Government Services	387	697	3046	8297	10,757	11,262	12,008
Non-Profit Agencies	10	18	19	34	43	47	53
Total	4249	6543	20,129	50,356	69,611	74,848	79,080

Table IV

Average Per Capita Share of Gross National Product

Years	At Current Prices	At Fixed Prices	At Fixed Prices
		1975	1980
1963	886	1741	2972
1970	1094	1745	3288
1975	2807	2785	5420
1980	5951	3249	5951
1982	7741	3264	6341
Initial 1983	8022	3278	6267
Projected 1984	8199	3279	6255

12502

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SYRIA

CONSTRUCTION UNION GAINS SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR WORKERS

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 31 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] In the first half of this month, immediately after meetings between the Ministry of Social Affairs, the professional federation of construction and carpentry unions and the companies council, a decree was issued to apply decree No 612. This decree governs application of the disability, old age and death regulations set down in the social security law covering workers in temporary, contract and seasonal jobs with the state ministries, administrative agencies, authorities, public firms, municipalities and the agencies subordinate to them, the public sector and the general contracting companies. In general, public agencies will increase their service in a manner consistent with the announcement. It is effective as of 1 January 1985.

This decree guarantees the right of workers to insurance for old age, disability and death for service in the public sector prior to issuance of the decree. The details of the decree, which is incumbent on all state agencies, require them to apply all aspects of the decree.

Why is decree No 612 being issued, and how was it issued? What is the meaning of the stages which led up to this application?

Articles 2 and 82 of the social security law contained the purport of decree No 612. This step was an obligation undertaken when the social security law was issued in 1959. But, because the actual situation did not permit it, construction workers were not included in the insurance. Now, the situation is changing, inasmuch as the state has come to generally dominate construction, and public sector companies are being entrusted with all of the construction and building work in the country. It has become possible to include most of the workers and their jobs in these companies.

In addition, it certainly has become possible to stabilize the work force and to stop its turnover, to encourage the workers to stay in the public sector and its companies. Therefore, this has become a pressing issue, particularly since the conference on the construction sector called by the professional federation of construction and carpentry unions in the country on 27 September 1983.

A number of recommendations were raised by this conference, most of which were granted by the agencies supervising the construction sector and set up as general policy covering the work in this sector. These recommendations included the demand for non-dismissal of workers, and for a program of work in the companies, organizing it with long-range plans in accordance with the 5-year plan in a way which would ensure security for the workers and the companies, continuity of work, convenient and rapid transfer from one project to another, avoiding the disarray which has led to the need to release workers due to the unavailability of job opportunities. This situation has led to turnover in the work force, a lack of stability among the cadres, and a lack of a growth of skills in this productive group.

In addition, the conference placed emphasis in its recommendations on the importance of including the workers under social insurance, concerning which a special section dealing with this issue says:

"It is noticeable that most of the workers in the public construction sector are not participants in the social security establishment. In view of the waste involved in squandering their rights, especially those who have given long service in these companies, we demand their participation in social security equal to that of other workers in agencies of the public and private sector."

After this conference, which included proposals of far-reaching importance at the national and organizational levels, a group of proclamations were issued by the council of ministers. The first listed the projects being implemented by public sector companies, then another proclamation called for preparation of comprehensive studies of the labor force needed and of the equipment and primary building materials needed. The workers gained representation on the higher council of the companies with two representatives and an increase in their representation on the administrative committees of the companies.

Another recommendation, whose implementation has been requested for a long time, was decree No 612, which was issued by the minister of social affairs and labor on 29 April 1984, nearly 8 months before it became effective.

The decree called for the companies to organize Form Number 1 for all workers by the end of the 9th month.

A Meeting in the Office of the Higher Council of the Companies

For reasons which are not clear, a number of companies were not required to organize Form Number 1 by the specified time. The last month of the year came, and the steps which were to have been taken before the 10th month had not been completed. Thus on 12 January 1985 a preliminary meeting was held in the office of the higher council for the companies, including all of the relevant parties: the general contracting companies, the insurance establishment, and the professional federation of construction and carpentry unions. It investigated issues of application of the decree. Following this, a larger meeting was held of the labor union federation, and recommendations of formulas for application of the decree were made. Also, all of the questions raised by the companies were answered.

Thus, finally, the decree found legitimacy of publication, and the important step of recognizing it was undertaken by Mr Hilal al-Rizq, president of the professional federation: "A farreaching gain of importance crowns the effort of the professional federation for construction and carpentry unions, especially after the expansion of the position of the public sector in the area of construction and building, and the increased need for stability for the labor force in this sector."

What does this decree mean?

Dr 'Arif Hamdan, general director of the social security authority, says: "Decree No 612 is an important gain, incorporating the seasonal and temporary workers in all types of insurance. This is an estimated 350,000 workers."

What does the decree mean financially? What are the consequences for the companies of increased expenses?

It is not a matter of increased burdens or expenses, but of stability for the worker, and guaranteeing his rights is again. However, in this regard, the agency entrusted with performance will pay approximately 24 percent, while the worker will pay about 7 percent.

Another detail about which we should speak is the decree extending the effective implementation of the law on social security, issued by the minister of social affairs, which was accompanied by a decree granting inclusion of the workers service prior to 1 January 1985 and the right to use the insurance benefits from this previous period. Steps will follow this, what we would call organizational steps, which will allow standardization of the worker's insurance number so that the worker will know his own number and the number will remain the same no matter what the job. Currently, there is some confusion in this area. Previously, every worker had more than one card and insurance number, depending on how often he changed his work place. This is a time of ignorance and lack of awareness of insurance matters. This requires cooperation of the labor unions and administrations, to raise the level of insurance and legal awareness of all the workers in the public sector.

Decree No 612 is a kind of model in the area of work of the higher council for the companies. The decree means that this sector is a nationalist and progressive sector, eager to avoid the notion of exploitation as it builds the nation. However, from another point of view, a review of the lower wage level in this sector must be done. This is one of the recommendations of the conference of the building and construction sector which must be taken under consideration.

12780

CSO: 4404/307

SYRIA

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LAND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 7 Mar 85 p 3

[Article by Ziyad Malud: "Our National Cadres, With High Technology, Completed the Main Part of the Lower Canal Which Will Be Put in Operation March 8"]

[Text] Just as our masses have paid homage to our great leader, Hafiz al-Asad, and have said yes to him for a new constitutional term, the employees of the Land Reclamation Company have paid homage to the builder of modern Syria by putting into service the first part of the main lower canal on the occasion of the glorious March revolution celebrations and as a renewed homage to our leader, Hafiz al-Asad.

TISHRIN went to the work sites to observe the ongoing work on this and other vital projects in this province [al-Raqqah] being carried out by the Land Reclamation Company.

What Does the Main Lower Canal Project Mean?

Before talking about what we saw, and our colleagues' reports on this canal notwithstanding, we must refresh the memories about this canal. What does the main lower canal project mean?

The project is comprised of several parts. The first part, which will be put in service during the glorious March revolution celebrations, is around 18 kilometers long; its maximum flow is 140 cubic meters per second; and it starts at the irrigation source at the Euphrates Dam and is connected to the Wadi al-'Anafi "siphon" and the Kadiran Canal across a trunk canal 917 meters long and equipped with locks. The second part is being built by the General Irrigation Construction Company. It is 52 kilometers long with a flow is 85 cubic meters per second. It provides irrigation for the three parts of the al-Balikh Basin and is an open semi-sloping canal lined with concrete over plastic slabs. The basic works included 5.6 million cubic meters of dirt excavation, 210,000 cubic meters of filled beds and 2 million cubic meters of concrete; 120 kilometers of underground drainage pipes are under construction. This part provides irrigation for 45,000 hectares out of 110 [thousand] hectares which constitute the total area of al-Hasham, al-Ra'id and the al-Balikh Basin project.

Return to First Part of Main Lower Canal

Comrade Rayiz Fikfalawi, director general of the Land Reclamation Company, said: "The real dream has been realized with putting the final touches on the first part of the canal. Three work shifts have been starting to work at 4 am despite harsh weather conditions that hit the province this year. Workers, technicians and engineers have been working earnestly and diligently in 10 degrees below zero to complete this dream and to accomplish the first step of construction during the next few days."

[Question] Why this excessive concern and fast work?

[Answer] We have stepped up our work. We have built additional workshops to complete the first part of this canal as soon as possible; to test it and put it into service during the occasion dearest to our heart, the occasion of the March revolution celebrations; and to tell our leader al-Asad 'yes' in word and deed, just as our people paid homage to him in the past. In addition, the reclaimed land in the Bir al-Hasham area and the farming season are waiting for water in order to produce. The Kudayran pumping station has been closed and electric power for pumping has been dispensed with.

Present Work on the Canal

Comrade Bikfalawi says that work is now in its final stages. Work is now underway to fill the "expansion and contraction" partitions with tar, after heating it to a very high degree. Before filling these partitions, workers clean them of dirt and sand. As of today, 25 February 1985, we have been able to fill 340 kilometers of partitions out of a total of 400 kilometers.

Another Word

Its total cost is 275 million Syrian pounds; it has 1,100 workers. This canal has been built by Syrian Arab hands and under strictly Syrian supervision. This first part of the canal easily distributes water after opening the locks found in the main part of the dam.

Project for Raising the Euphrates Dam

This project aims at raising the Euphrates Dam 4 meters and raising the dam's general level from 300 to 304 meters, thus raising the water storage capacity of Asad Lake to 13.4 billion cubic meters, an increase of 2.5 billion over its present capacity, and increasing the electric power generated by this dam to 65 megawatts.

Studies and designs for this project have been completed and the general schedule for implementation has been worked out with the friendly Soviet side. Contracts for bringing in executive plans, designs and all other works related to this important economic project have been signed.

The director general of the Land Reclamation Company says that the company has started work which is progressing well and is in line with the plans coming in from the Euphrates Dam Authority. The first stage saw the building of the breakwater whereby 2.5 out of 4.5 kilometers have been broken.

Al-Ba'th Control Dam

The General Land Reclamation Company has made good headway in implementing this important project whose costs, including equipment, total around 850 million Syrian pounds. The dam is located at a point 16 kilometers east of the Euphrates Dam. Its overall length is about 3 kilometers and the average width at the top is 10 meters. It consists of the right shoulder, 400 meters long, and the power station that includes 3 sets of horizontal turbines, each with a capacity of 25 megawatts and an overall capacity of 75 megawatts, and al-Madid Dam which is 145 meters long. It also has 10 arched gates with a maximum flow of 8,530 cubic meters per second. This project is being built by Syrian Arab hands and with Syrian expertise in cooperation with the Soviet friends.

This dam aims to diminish the fluctuation of the Euphrates River water level, to regulate the daily flow of the river and to generate electric power which will reach 375 kilowatt hours annually, or 8.1 percent of the Euphrates Dam station's production.

As already mentioned, this dam helps to regulate the course of the Euphrates River behind the Euphrates Dam power station, and it also stores water coming in a 24-hour period and drains it in an organized and steady manner. According to plans and studies, the course of the Euphrates River is expected to be closed and diverted by the al-Ba'th Dam at the beginning of next year in preparation for the operation of the first unit. Al-Ba'th Dam employs 1,300 workers, in addition to 43 civil, mechanical and electrical engineers. It is scheduled for completion in 1987.

With the Director of al-Ba'th Dam

Al-Ba'th Dam director Mahmud Jarimi said: "We are scheduled to complete 95 percent of the concrete work this year and the rest will be completed after closing off the river's course, which is scheduled to be completed at the beginning of next year. Right now, the dam has taken its final shape and next month we will begin to install the gates. As for the concrete work on the left bank, 11,500 of our 14,500 cubic meters have been completed without problems or difficulties. We have stepped up our work at present by having 3 work shifts working non-stop.

Maskanah Sharq Projects

The project extends 35 kilometers from the city of al-Thawrah to the borders of Halab Province. The project now employs 130 workers, according to the company's director general, and the company has been awarded the contract to finish it. Work on it actually began in November of last year and a large number of machines and workers have been enlisted to carry out

the set projects. The company is excavating the drainage units, the canal, the road excavations for the pumping stations and other preparatory work to start some industrial operations. It will be supported with machinery and labor in conformity with gradual work progress and in a way that will meet the completion date set for the end of 1988.

It is divided into two parts: A main pumping station on al-Asad Lake, with a capacity of 30 cubic meters per second, irrigates the Maskanah Sharq projects which include a 17,800 hectare area. The second part includes the irrigation, drainage and road networks, in addition to land leveling operations in a 17,800 hectare area.

Maskanah Gharb Projects

They consist of a main pumping station at al-Asad Lake which is considered the largest one in the Syrian Arab region. It pumps 90 cubic meters per second at a height of 86 meters. It will irrigate the Maskanah Gharb and Aleppo plains.

They are being built in two stages, according to the director general of the Land Reclamation Company. The first one is for completing the pumping station's earth works and the feeder canals. Work on this project began in March 1981 and will proceed in accordance with set schedules.

The sizes of the main works are:

Earth works: Out of 1.266 million cubic meters, 1.145 has been completed as of December of last year. The rate of completion is 90 percent.

Concrete works: The planned size was 23,700 cubic meters completed in 1984. The total value of the contract was 97.3 million Syrian pounds. The value of work already completed, as of 30 December 1984, totaled 91.6 million pounds, or a 94 percent rate for the first stage contract.

Pumping station's second stage: A contract with the General Organization for Land Reclamation was signed 11 October 1984. Work started in January 1982 before the contract was signed. The value of the contract totaled 222 million pounds and plans are to activate 4 pumping units by the end of 1986.

Main Drawing Canal To Irrigate Maskanah Gharb and Aleppo Plains

It is 72 kilometers long and draws off about 90 cubic meters per second. It is divided into two stages:

The first stage includes earth and industrial works on the canal from kilometer zero to kilometer 30. A contract with the Land Reclamation Organization was signed on 16 June 1982, but work actually started in October 1981 and is scheduled for completion at the end of the current 5-year plan.

The second stage also includes earth and industrial works from kilometer 30 to kilometer 52, in addition to casing work from kilometer zero to 52. Actual work on this stage began in June 1984 and casing work will begin in April 1985 if the necessary raw materials are available.

Fayiz Bikfalawi, the company's director general, added that a contract, No 104, had been signed on 28 December 1983 for completing the first stage of the reclamation of 20,000 hectares, 6,000 of which are expected to be ready during the second half of next year.

We note here that the Land Reclamation Company last year completed 465 million Syrian pounds worth of work, out of a planned 530 million. As for the company's work plan for the current year, it calls for completing 615 million Syrian pounds worth of work.

12502

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SYRIA

WATER LEVELS IN DAMS GOOD FOR AGRICULTURE

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 3 Mar 85 p 3

[Article by 'Adil Hadidi: "Rise in Surface Dam Water Level Allows Good Cultivation of Land"]

[Text] The heavy rainfalls in the last 2 months and this month have brought to the hearts of the general populace in al-Hasakah Province joy and good hope for a good season for winter farming in the province. Eyes are set on the month of March to guarantee positive results that will reflect on the quality and success of the season. If more rain falls in March, the success of the season will be assured in order that the province may witness acceptable progress, particularly on the economic level following a recession that lasted for 2 years. This had an adverse effect at all levels, the psychological one particularly, because all aspects of daily life are tied to the success or failure of the season in the province.

Perhaps the positive indicators of a good crop and a successful winter season as a result of rainfalls do not stop at this season alone, but will affect the coming summer season as well, especially summer and intensive farming. Through the water supplies in the surface dams in the province and the field trip undertaken by the director of agriculture and agrarian reform and the director of technical services in al-Hasakah, and the examination of water reserves in it, the following was revealed:

Bab al-Hadid Dam: The actual capacity of this dam is about 23 [million] cubic meters. Its average water storage [capacity] is 10 million cubic meters and its annual maximum consumption capacity is 12 million cubic meters. It irrigates recorded areas estimated at about 11,000 dunums, and, as of this 15 February, its reserve amounted to 7 million cubic meters, compared to last year's level, as of the end of the month of May, of 6 million cubic meters. And, based on current data and future expectations of more rain, the water of this dam can meet the needs of the agricultural plan for the land that will be cultivated around it.

Al-Jawadiyah Dam: Its actual capacity is 7,500 [as published] cubic meters and its average water storage is 4 million cubic meters. Annual consumption is also 4 million cubic meters. This amount irrigates an area of 3,250 dunums. As of the middle of this February, its level reached approximately 3.6 million cubic meters, compared to 2 million cubic meters in 1983-1984. Based on

financial data alone, this level allows the competent authorities to implement the agricultural plan and, consequently, it meets all its needs.

As for al-Jirahi Dam, its actual reserve is about 19 million cubic meters and its average storage capacity is about 21 million cubic meters. Its annual consumption is about 8 million cubic meters and it can irrigate about 8,000 dunums. As of the middle of this February, its annual level was 9.75 million cubic meters, compared to 2 million cubic meters in 1983-84. The present level allows the cultivation of the designated land, and even more.

The old al-Karimah Dam, which was built to water grazing land and some other crops planted in limited areas, has an actual capacity of 1.3 million cubic meters. Its average storage is 0.3 million cubic meters while its maximum consumption is unknown. Also, the areas around it that can be cultivated have not yet been determined. Its later level, as of mid-February of this year, is about 1.2 million cubic meters, compared to 0.5 million cubic meters for 1983 and 1984. This date prompts us to pin high hopes on it, unlike the situation last year.

As for the rest of the dams in the province, the reserve in al-Hakimah Dam is 3.75 million cubic meters and its storage capacity is about 5.5 million. Al-Mansurah Dam had about 1 million cubic meters as of mid-February of this year with a storage capacity of about 3.5 million. Al-Saffan Dam has 15 million cubic meters with a storage capacity of 50 million.

Through this quick review of the current levels of the surface dams in the province, we can say that the first indications of the season are good, as we have already said and, therefore, the competent authorities in the province can implement the plan for summer and intensive farming and for cultivating the designated areas around the dams.

12502

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SYRIA

STEPS TO PRESERVE, DEVELOP ARID REGIONS DETAILED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 21 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] The total area of the country is 18.5 million hectares, divided into five agricultural zones, according to the amount of rainfall in each.

The desert is classified in the fifth zone, because it receives less than 200 millimeters of rainfall annually. It is the principal grassland area in the country, covering approximately 10 million hectares and holding 80 percent of the country's cattle resources.

In 1982, a conference on development of the Syrian desert examined its aggravated situation, and drew up the plans needed for its exploitation in ways which will preserve its natural characteristics.

It reached the following conclusions: continued implementation of the sections of the Syrian program for development of the grasslands; material and moral support for all the needs of this program is necessary; formation of a committee to study laws to protect the desert; creation of a committee for the desert to set up a program to develop the desert and solve the difficulties which it faces; and establishment of a general directorate for the desert, grasslands and cattle.

Three years after the conference, where do we stand in our utilization of the desert?

In a meeting with Eng Hazim al-Samman, head of the directorate of the desert in the Ministry of Agriculture, it was pointed out that great effort has been expended to carry out the recommendations of the first conference on development of the desert. The most important results of the conference have been issuance of a decree by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Reform prohibiting cultivation of grains on desert lands, irrespective of the circumstances of the investment, and limitation by the directorate for the desert, grasslands and cattle of utilization of these lands to cultivation of various grassland shrubs, under a special utilization permit.

In this manner, the major cause of decline of the desert grasslands has been ended, and protection of these grasslands as fodder reserves for cattle has been achieved.

The programs for development of the desert have the goal of rebuilding and developing the vegetation covering, which has declined. They aim to develop and preserve the natural features of the desert, to return vegetation and animal life to desert areas, while assuring economic and social stability to the residents, the majority of whom are bedouin, nomadic and semi-nomadic peoples dependent on livestock breeding as their sole source of income.

Cooperative Associations for Improvement of Grasslands and Livestock Breeding

Engineer al-Samman adds that the desert grassland has been divided among cooperative associations. Each association has been assigned a specific area of desert land, in correlation with the number of members and their cattle, taking into account the utilization rights of the bedouin who have made use of some grassland areas in order to avoid some of the social problems which have arisen.

These associations are protecting the grazing land assigned to them, applying fodder rotation, and working to add to the vegetation covering of their lands by cultivating grassland shrubs. The cooperatives are given complete support by the state, particularly long-term loans to build storage facilities for fodder in each cooperative, short-term loans to purchase their central food needs from the fodder exchange fund, and interest-free loans to plant grassland shrubs.

There are 270 associations, with a total of 32,608 members and 4,922,788 animals.

Establishment of Livestock-Breeding Centers

Along the lines of the cooperative associations, allocation has been made for 10 livestock-breeding centers in desert grassland areas. The centers will seek to protect the natural vegetation cover of the grassland, to utilize decline areas, to apply the principles of sound pasture rotation, and to act as guidance centers for neighboring cooperative associations. Also, they will undertake the important task of distributing high-quality rams to the cooperatives, in order to raise production, and will set up schools for sons of herdsmen and bedouin.

Cooperative Associations in Marginal Areas

Cooperatives have also been established whose duties complement those of the grassland cooperatives. They will seek to raise the volume of livestock production in desert areas to the point of the neighboring grasslands. They will transport the livestock to feedlots of the cooperatives to fatten them on concentrated fodder for 90 days, then transport the cattle to market. This will provide a major portion of local consumption. Fattening of cattle is clearly an important industry for the country. It contributes to achieving stability for livestock breeding and providing considerable quantities of hard currency to the state gained from exporting the surplus from local markets or from fattening cattle for a time during their transit. These cooperatives are supported by loans needed to build storage facilities for fodder and to purchase the fodder needed from the fodder establishment.

There are 48 of these cooperatives, with a total of 6,471 members and about 1,750,000 animals.

Cultivation of Deteriorated Grassland in Shrubs Able to Withstand Dry Conditions

Production of approved grassland seedlings has begun in 10 special nurseries distributed among the provinces. The directorate of the desert, grasslands and cattle, and its agencies in the provinces, are transferring these seedlings to sites for their cultivation in areas of the associations for the improvement of the grasslands, and to any breeders who desire them. The expense of this will be borne by the ministry, without compensation. Approximately 9,144,000 seedlings were produced in the 1983 season, with a production focus of more than 70 percent on domestic varieties, such as "al-rauthah". Also, a center for production of 10 tons of local grassland seedlings was established at Qasr al-Hayr for production of 10 tons of local grassland seedlings annually, and to acclimatize them to the dry conditions of the desert and semi-arid areas. This will reduce the regular expenditures of production of grasslands plants in nurseries, and the activities associated with their cultivation in perennial areas of land.

46 Million Pounds for Desert Development

The Fifth 5-Year Plan includes 46 million pounds for the project to develop the desert. It is intended to produce 45 million grassland plants able to withstand dry conditions, to establish a center for cattle breeding, to improve the grassland in the provinces of Dar'a and Hims, and to fence in the center for cattle breeding to protect its pasture.

In addition, it will assure means of transportation and the equipment needed by the grassland nurseries and the cattle centers, implementation of training programs for members of the cooperatives, putting the borders of the new cooperative associations in the desert areas on maps to clarify the boundary markers for each association, and distribution of maps to each association.

18.5 Million Pounds to Renovate and Equip Desert Wells

The sum of 18.5 million pounds has been earmarked for 48 current wells, to provide equipment, maintenance, fuel and spare batteries, and to build housing and provide sufficient supplies of the needs of daily life for workers at the wells.

Five new wells taken from the Ministry of Petroleum have been put into operation in Dayr al-Zuwwar province, and 100 wells have been set.

65 Million for Livestock-Breeding Development

The Fifth 5-Year Plan sets aside 65 million pounds for loans to cattle-breeding and fattening associations and associations for grassland improvement in order to purchase fodder requirements, at an interest rate of 5.5 percent. It will also be used to carry out studies of desert development, to provide veterinary care for cattle, to secure 60 mobile units and to build 6 livestock tanks, as well as to purchase instruments and vaccines.

Supervision By the Higher Committee for Desert Development of All Development Activities

Among the most important measures taken since the conference have been creation of a Higher Committee for Desert Development, chaired by the deputy prime minister for service matters. It includes various ministers concerned with the desert sector and the general directorate for the desert. It oversees this sector, and works to develop the deteriorated natural resources and to preserve what remains. It also works to provide the various necessary services to residents of this sector, by coordination with other administrations, and to follow up on the programs for preservation of grassland resources by creation of cattle centers for "protected" animals. It is concerned with guidance and educational programs for members of the cooperatives and for workers specializing in this sector. Sufficient financial assets have been provided to assure service projects for the residents of the desert in conformity with its harsh environment. It works for educational and cultural development where it is possible by these means to attain the desired goal of preservation of the natural resources.

12780

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD ADDRESSES JOINT PDRY-SOVIET PROJECT MEETING

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 1 Apr 85 p 6

[Article: "In Important Address Delivered Yesterday by Secretary General to Workers of Central Workshop for Yemeni-Soviet Projects: Working Class in Aden Has Been Symbol of Yemeni Unity; You Have Been Stronger Than Advocates of Blocs, Tribalism, Ruralism, Separatism and Factionalism"]

[Text] Comrade men and women, Soviet friends who are participating with us in this election meeting of the union committee of the Yemen-Soviet Projects General Directorate,

We are extremely happy to take part in this election meeting which we hope will succeed in selecting and electing the vanguard and tested labor elements among the workers' ranks.

We have followed the elections that have taken place in the Central Land Transportation Workshop, in the Agricultural Tool Plant and in the Ministry of Labor. On this occasion, I wish to congratulate our comrades the workers who have been given the trust by their fellow workers and elected to the union committees.

Working Class Is Symbol of Unity

I wish to assert, on the occasion of the elections in this facility, the importance of selecting the best vanguard and tested labor elements who are free from tribal blocs, village blocs, separatist blocs and factional blocs because, comrades, we cannot move backward. Since the 1950's, you and the working class have been stronger than the advocates of "Aden for Adenis, Hadramaut for the Hadramis and the south for the southerners" and the advocates of the separatist call which was raised by the League and led by the rulers of the south. You have been stronger than the advocates of "the north for the northerners" and the working class in Aden has been a symbol of Yemeni unity and the bastion of Yemeni strugglers, both southerners and northerners. The working class in the city of Aden was stronger than the British occupation and stronger than all the calls I have just mentioned. It is from the brave city of Aden that the workers proceeded after the inception of the 26 September Revolution to the northern part of the homeland to defend this revolution. They proceeded from this brave city and from all the Yemeni cities not just to demonstrate and stage marches but also to carry arms in defense of the 26 September Revolution.

The Yemeni working class and Yemeni workers and strugglers in Aden performed magnificent roles when they carried arms--rifles, handguns, submachine guns and guns--for the triumph of the 14 October Revolution.

Mighty and Invincible Force

You have been, brothers, the mighty and great force which could not be defeated by the weapons of the colonists and by their acts of persecution, arrest and displacement against you. You were the invincible force and the revolution triumphed with the struggle of the workers and of our masses in Aden. Aden played the decisive role in achieving the country's independence on 30 November 1967.

You are entitled, comrades, to be proud of this glorious history and of these heroic acts of which all our people are proud. We are entitled to be proud of our people's history. While speaking of the revolution, we cannot forget the role of the rebellious, brave, heroic, struggling and warm-hearted Aden--this warm-hearted city which has embraced the strugglers and which embraces today strugglers from all parts of the world. We cannot forget the history of struggle of our people and we cannot forget the first spark which issued from the lofty Radfan Mountains on 14 October 1963 under the leadership of the National Front. We cannot forget the fall of the first martyr on the pure soil of the revolution, Rajih ibn Ghalib Labbuzah.

Comrades, these accomplishments that you are making with your blood and sweat would have been impossible without the sacrifices I have mentioned.

Features of New Life

While standing here, I recall, comrades, the time when I was governor of Lahaj at the end of 1967. I remember this place in which we are celebrating and meeting now. This was a barren area devoid of all signs of life. I still remember the slogan written on a road sign close to this workshop, a slogan which said, "Tomorrow, our desert will turn green." The desert between Dar Sa'd and al-Hawtah has turned green and the sands encroaching upon the highway have been stopped, thanks to you. The marching sands have been stopped everywhere so that the land may turn green and so that fruits and vegetables may replace the sands. The farms, factories and projects are everywhere. We still recall the sands which used to encroach on the highway between al-Sha'b City, al-Mansurah and al-Shaykh 'Uthman. Who stopped those sands? You did.

The marching sands which at times blocked the transportation routes have stopped. Why is this? Is it because we have planted trees in the city of Aden and in the quarters from which the sands were marching? No. Now, there are new workers' residential quarters built with the arms of the workers. New factories have been built in al-Mansurah, al-Mamdarah and al-Shaykh 'Uthman.

We express our satisfaction with these great accomplishments which have been achieved everywhere in Aden and in the easternmost governorate of

al-Maharah, whose citizens did not even speak Arabic as a result of the colonialists' and sultans' schemes which sought to isolate al-Maharah and Suqutra from Aden, to isolate Barim from Aden and to isolate the governorates from each other. I still remember my first visit to al-Maharah Governorate. What has happened within 10 years? But this is not all we aspire for. When I visited al-Maharah Governorate for the first time in 1972-73 when I was the prime minister, I met with the officials in a citizen's house and I stayed at a citizen's house because there was no government house and no guest house. We stayed on the roof of one of the citizen's houses. At the time, there was no electricity, no water and no hospital in the town of al-Ghayzah. We discussed the conditions in al-Maharah until the late hours of the night. Upon completing our discussions, every minister took a blanket to use for his bedding and I was left with no blanket because I headed the meeting.

Ten Years of Development

When we were discussing the issue of the hospital--and this is a fact I brought up during my latest visit to al-Maharah--I asked a soldier to look for bedding for us at the hospital but he could find none. I waited until 0200 and was then compelled to sleep on the ground until morning.

What has happened in these years?

Upon my latest visit to al-Maharah, a modern Soviet-made TU-154 airliner landed in the city of al-Ghayzah for the first time. Other modern aircraft land there now. The dirt airstrip has been turned into an international airport. A spot in which goods could not be unloaded for the citizens has now turned into a port in al-Maharah. Al-Maharah now has a port built at a cost of \$45 million and containing refrigeration facilities and warehouses. There are electricity, paved roads, water and schools in al-Ghayzah, in Hawf, in Thamud, in Wadi Hadramaut, in al-'Ibar, in Mukayras Heights, in Yafa', in al-Dali' and all the way to Bab el Mandeb. Comrades, these accomplishments could not have been achieved without you, without the masses' steadfastness, without the defense of this revolution, without the armed forces' steadfastness in the frontlines, without the alliance of the workers and the peasants and without the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Alliance with Friendly Soviet Union

We would not have been able to achieve these great accomplishments of which we are proud without the alliance with the Soviet Union. This workshop and this site which are embracing us are the Soviet projects. The central workshop is one of the Soviet projects and there are agricultural, industrial, fishery, electricity, health, education, petroleum and mining projects in all parts of the country. The efforts exerted to produce oil in Thamud and al-Shabwah and the gold which is being mined by the Soviet comrades in Wadi Mudun in Hadramaut are great accomplishments being achieved as a result of the understanding and the comradely relations between the Yemeni workers and the Soviet experts. This is a relationship of which we are proud.

Comrades, you must be alert to all the projects implemented by our comrades in the socialist bloc countries. We cannot speak enough of the role performed by the Soviet Union in developing the PDRY's defense capability--a development which has had a great impact on this regime's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist and reactionary plots that are aimed at the PDRY regime. Our people will confront any plot seeking to undermine the revolution and its accomplishments.

Against Amman Agreement

What is happening in Lebanon, in the PLO and in the Arab region? I do not wish to review in detail the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary scheme aimed at the Palestinian revolution. They have tried to tear the Palestinian revolution apart.

The truth is that we have opposed the Amman agreement. We have declared openly that we are opposed to this agreement which is aimed at relinquishing the Palestinian cause. Weakening the Palestinian revolution means weakening Syria's steadfastness and weakening the PDRY. Consequently, we have had to move and to make the latest tour during which we visited the Steadfastness Front states to confront the Amman agreement and confront the U.S. scheme which is aimed at the Palestinian cause, at Syria's steadfastness, at shattering the Steadfastness Front and at the PDRY.

It is natural to say that we have achieved so far a big success in taking the initiative to call for a meeting of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states. These states have responded to the invitation and we hope that the meeting will be held to discuss what is happening in the Palestinian, Lebanese and Arab arena, to discuss relations between the Steadfastness Front states, to coordinate the positions on the Arab summit and to consult on all the developments in the Arab and international situations.

Confident That We Will Triumph

Comrades, when we point out in this quick and brief address the dangers engulfing the PDRY, then it means that we must truly struggle here to bolster the party's and the working class' role and to strengthen the country's economic and defense capabilities because no imperialist-reactionary plots against the regime can succeed if the internal front is fortified. We are confident that we will triumph because these elements and the working class have undertaken a major role in implementing the 5-year projects of the 5-year plan and in preparing for the third 5-year plan. Even though I have pointed out that we have achieved major and great accomplishments, this is not all we aspire for. Numerous tasks, aspirations and vital demands are still awaiting us. This requires us to devote all the resources and all our time to achieve our masses' aspirations. In the governorates, they demand water. You may not believe it but their demand is water. We tell them we will give them electricity and they answer: No, no, we don't want electricity!

We Must Devote All Resources

We were talking yesterday how in the past people in the desert, including the desert military commander, the security and police chiefs, the district officer and even the governor, would receive anybody going to see them with the words: Welcome to the water tanker man. The welcome was for the driver of the water tanker. The first thing they would ask was: Where is the driver, meaning the water tanker driver? Everybody, including the party organization secretary, the governor and the security, police and defense officials, would welcome the water tanker driver.

Some people may not believe that this is happening even now. The welcome and interest are in the delegation chairman, i.e., the driver, because people want water, not only in the desert but perhaps also in Jabal Jihaf, in Yafa', in Mukayras and in some other areas. The citizens do not want colored televisions or roads. Some of them don't even want electricity. They have said that they don't want electricity. They want water.

I remember that we told the people in Jaradan: We will bring you electricity and will develop the television network and bring television to you. They said: We want you to bring water. This is happening now. Of course, the demands vary from place to place.

I was in the town of al-Shahar in Hadramaut and the people said: We want recreation area for the youth, the workers, for ASHID, and for women. As I have said, the demands vary. Some people demand parks, others demand electricity and still others demand water.

This is why we must truly devote all our resources to develop the country's life from the east to the west, to the borders of the desert and to the remote parts of the country. I am confident that the Third 5-year Plan will include numerous important and vital projects which will lead the country toward greater and greater development.

I do not wish to dwell on matters too long but I do wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the comrade leaders of the working class, headed by Comrade Sultan al-Dawsh, for their interest in keeping up with the election session of the union committees. From the bottom of our hearts, we wish this class success in selecting and electing the best vanguard and tested labor elements. Let us struggle in defense of the Yemeni revolution, to implementing the 5-year plan and to achieve Yemeni unity.

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

RURAL HEALTH PLANNING DISCUSSED

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 11 Apr 85 p 3

[Article by Salwa San'ani: "Ninety Percent of Rural Population To Benefit from Comprehensive Rural Health Care by 1990; Protecting Environment, Water and Air from Pollution Is One Issue To Be Given Special Attention in Coming Phase"]

[Text] The plans and statistics of the Ministry of Public Health indicate that 90 percent of the rural population will benefit from comprehensive health care by the end of the Third 5-year Plan, which ends in 1990.

The future health development plan outlines the general aspects of enhancing and organizing health care, whether curative or preventive.

To insure that health care is comprehensive, the Ministry of Health will work to organize the relationship between society's hospitals and basic health services, to establish balanced relations between the various branches of the health services, to organize the relationship between the hospitals and the services in the provinces and the districts, to expand the sphere of the rural health units and centers and to enhance their capability.

The plan also stresses the need to give priority to increasing the number of health workers in the rural health services and to securing the needed current expenditures so that these services may be able to perform the tasks entrusted to them. The plan also stresses the independence of each governorate in managing its affairs while the Ministry of Health maintains its guidance role in developing the health services. The plan further defines the tasks of the Ministry of Health as the following:

1. Drafting national health policies and their priorities.
2. Insuring implementation of these policies by allocating the resources according to the priorities.
3. Providing technical guidance plans, support and supervision for the health services in the governorates.

The Ministry of Health will also watch the progress of implementation of the plans in the governorates according to specific indicators and evaluate this progress periodically in joint meetings.

To insure that the health care is comprehensive, the development plan lists the total resources necessary to provide health care to all the citizens, including qualified medical and health cadres, drugs and medical equipment for every health institution. The plan stresses the proper and rational use of these resources. The plan also covers the standardization of equipment and the introduction of the proper technology, such as the refrigeration chain [silsilat al-tabrid] and solar energy. It further deals with insuring the proper procedures for transporting medical drugs and providing pharmaceutical supplies.

As for providing health services to the countryside, advanced services in gynecology, pediatrics and obstetrics will be supplied and the emphasis will be put on enhancing the level of the existing units and improving the training of the health guides, especially in the remote and inaccessible areas.

A 5-year planning session will also be held to draw up joint projects, either with the other ministries or within the various sections of the Ministry of Public Health, by training job cadres who draw up the joint projects during the plan period.

The governorates will also be encouraged to develop sectoral programs with the other ministries.

The general plan of the Ministry of Public Health focuses on society and on its participation in achieving good health for all and considers this participation one of the strategic mainstays. In this regard, the plan underlines a number of major elements:

- Participation by society in securing quality work through supervision over the health guides from the general social and political aspects.
- Involvement of the popular organizations in the planning process to insure society's constructive participation.
- The health guides shoulder the responsibility of mobilizing society and its members to participate positively in protective and developmental activities, such as participation in building, developing and maintaining the health units.
- Insuring participation by the popular organizations in small communities in village development activities, which include supplying clean water, improved diets and health education pertaining to certain health problems and health statistics and bolstering illiteracy-eradication activities.

The participation of these organizations in the health symposiums, meetings and plans is considered essential to enhancing the standard of the health services. The Ministry of Health will provide the popular organizations with the broad lines in accordance with which the participation of these organizations will be defined.

On behalf of the National Environmental Health Council, the Ministry of Health will coordinate the other important issues concerning environmental protection with the ministries and agencies concerned. Whenever necessary, the Ministry of Health will provide the necessary resources and expertise in the spheres of:

- Protecting water and air from pollution, especially preventing the seepage of saline water to the sources of drinking water.
- Using sources of energy that are free of pollution.
- Working with the other sectors to prevent soil erosion and saline desertification and to protect the rural environment.
- Coordinating the work and dividing it among the country's government laboratories.
- Educating the public insofar as the environment is concerned.

It is to be noted that the Ministry of Public Health will begin drafting the strategic health plan by the start of the final year of the previously-set [current] 5-year plan, relying on the given facts of the existing situation. It will do so in coordination with the Ministry of Planning. The Ministry of Health will also build temporary national development projects whose current expenses will be met from the budget's various sections.

To review the progress in implementing the plans, the Ministry of Public Health and the Health Services Directorate will make a comprehensive evaluation--in the second half of the fourth year of the 5-year plan--of the accomplishments and problems of the 5-year plan up to that date.

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END